Daily Report

Latin America

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Countries Adopt 'Common Front' Toward Assemblies

PA2109002290 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2302 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Caracas, 19 Sep (DPA)—Latin American and Caribbean countries agreed at a meeting in Caracas today to assume a common front at the upcoming IMF and World Bank assemblies that will discuss the area's main economic problems.

Venezuelan Central Bank President Pedro Tinico said that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean will insist at the meetings in Washington that they face a persistent problem with their foreign debts, and will stress their need to maintain a flow of outside capital to buttress their development.

Tinoco, who hosted the 51st meeting of Latin American and Spanish Central Bank governors and the 21st meeting of governors to the World Bank and the IMF, said that the debt crisis continues to be the "fundamental problem."

Brazil and Honduras were elected as the countries to present the continent's position before the two international financial organizations.

At the meeting, Venezuelan Development Minister Moises Naim was elected World Bank executive director. Naim will represent Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, and Spain at the World Bank.

Eduardo Weisner, another World Bank executive officer, warned about the dangers involved if the strategy to reduce the foreign debt burden fails. He underscored the vicious circle of the structural adjustment programs which lack outside financing—a drop in trade and international reserves and the flight of capital—as a reason for the banks' refusal to grant new loans.

Added to all this are high interest rates, negative cash flows, and a lack of official loans or the prospect of a reduced foreign debt.

Former Mexican Finance and Public Credit Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog said that the region's principal challenge is to increase foreign investment.

Silva Herzog, director of the Center for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA), stressed the role of foreign investment in supporting the adjustment programs.

Naim, one of the main initiators of President Carlos Andres Perez' economic plan, will represent the nine countries at the World Bank, the IMF, and the International Financial Corporation.

Naim will take office on 26 September. He succeeds Mexican Jorge Pinto.

Carter, Observer Team To Visit Jamaica, Haiti

FL2009155190 Bridgetown CANA in English 1526 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, September 20, CANA—Former United States President Jimmy Carter was due here Thursday. Government officials said he would hold talks with Prime Minister Michael Manley, Acting Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, and minister of foreign affairs, David Coore. From here, Carter goes to Haiti where arrangements are being made for elections in November.

The visit to Haiti by Carter and observers from the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the United Nations should help to clear the way for "reasonably credible" elections, Dr. J. Michael Dash, an expert on Haiti, said. Dash, a University of the West Indies lecturer, said because of Carter's work in Latin America and his own status, his visit should be seen as being important.

"By now he should have a pretty good grasp of the situation in Haiti and should be able to give an informed account of what is happening in Haiti," said Dash who has written two books on Haiti and was part of a Caribbean observer mission to Haiti in 1987 after the ousting of the Duvaliers.

Transport Ministers Meeting Concludes

PY2009011790 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 15 Sep 90 p 13

[Excerpt] At the end of the 17th meeting of Southern Cone transport ministers, final agreements were signed by the seven participating countries. The agreements establish mechanisms by which border procedures for the transportation of merchandise and passengers will be expedited. The agreements that were signed include dispositions for both road and railroad transportation.

The five transportation ministers and the representatives of Argentina and Brazil unanimously approved all the points of the agenda of the 17th regional meeting. They ratified and expanded the agreements signed in Chile last year.

One of the most important agreements deals with tax exemption on merchandise in transit through Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. This will help reduce transportation costs.

An agreement on the legal responsibility of the transporter and a single insurance for merchandise in transit was also signed, but details must still be resolved in each country according to its own laws. Another important agreement was signed on the transportation of dangerous substances and substances used in manufacturing forbidden drugs, but the signing members requested the standardization of laws.

A remarkable aspect of the meeting of transport ministers was that they discussed not only road transportation but also railroad transportation. The Paraguayan and Bolivian representatives presented a project called "Libertador" which seeks railroad cooperation within the Southern Cone countries.

This project foresees the interconnection of trains, resulting in the ability to travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific through all the South American railroad companies working as a single company. This project was approved by the ministers. [passage omitted]

Cuba

Soviet Foreign Ministry Official on Aid to Havana

FL2009235090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2313 GMT 20 Sep 90

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] The Mexican magazine, TIEMPO, has published an interview granted by Yuriy Pavlov, director [as heard] of the Latin American Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry, to journalist Maria Elena Cantu.

At one point during the interview, the journalist asked the Soviet official the following question, textually:

The United States has said it will provide the Soviet Union with economic support on the condition that the USSR quit backing the Fidel Castro regime. Which will the USSR decide upon—U.S. aid or its interests with Cuba?

Yuriy Pavlov answered in the following manner:

The demand to suspend aid to Cuba as a condition for receiving U.S. credit is absolutely unacceptable to us. Cuba is not a Soviet ally since it does not belong to the Warsaw Pact. In addition, we do not have a mutual assistance agreement with Cuba. What we do have is the Friendship and Cooperation Agreement. Cuba represents a friendly country to us. We have extensive ties, political, as well as economic, and it is in no way strange that we are interested in conserving these relations.

The Soviet official continued: The internal economic changes in the USSR are another matter. They will undoubtedly require us to change structures and mechanisms pertaining to cooperation with Cuba. But this issue, he concluded, has nothing to do with politics.

Aldana Comments on Plans for Information Meeting

FL2009190190 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] The perfecting of specific forms of cooperation was highlighted by Carlos Aldana [secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, PCC] as the primary objective of the Third Conference of Nonaligned Countries Information Ministers that is to convene in Havana next week.

Aldana met with the nonaligned countries' ambassadors to Cuba. In the course of the meeting, Aldana said that Cuba, as the host country, will strive to achieve a favorable consensus regarding the increasingly necessary cooperation among the nonaligned countries in the area of communications and information.

In response to questions from reporters present at the meeting, the chief of the PCC's Department of Revolutionary Orientation commented on Cuba's experience in the area of information.

[Begin Aldana recording] Of course, in view of the fact that the meeting is being held in our country, we are quite ready to share our experience, as no more than that—experience. In other words, we do not propose to present a model. We propose to outline our experience, and to respectfully learn about others' experience. We are not the only ones who have operated in this sphere on the basis of social ownership. In fact, I believe some highly developed capitalist countries were the first to establish—and some of them continue to maintain—a particular system of ownership over television, for example.

The Cuban experience is not limited to this issue of ownership; other important factors are also involved. Indeed, more recently in our experience, Cuba was converted into a laboratory for the first attempt by the United States to impose a television signal on another country. I believe the results of that attempt demonstrate the capability of poor, small, developing countries to face up to trials of that kind. We are prepared to share our technological experience with all those who feel threatened by a similar act of interference.

I believe the perspective that we can contribute to this discussion can be a universal one. It need not be viewed solely through the prism of the very specific characteristics that are peculiar to the Cuban political process and situation. [end recording]

Aldana's meeting with the nonaligned countries' ambassadors was also presided over by the diplomatic representatives of Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe, in the name of the presidents of the Nonaligned Movement and of the Intergovernmental Information Council, respectively.

The meeting was opened by Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa Kouri, who said that so far, 80 delegations have confirmed that they will attend the information meeting. Fifty of these delegations will come from full members of the movement, and 28 of them will be headed by ministers.

Escalona Calls for Elimination of 'Formalisms'

FL2109022890 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2336 GMT 20 Sep 90

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] During the last day of the meeting of people's government reporters and specialized journalists, Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], today called for breaking with formalisms at all levels, even in the ANPP. Escalona Reguera stressed the participation of the masses in solving district problems by using their creativity.

During the meeting, the participants underscored the importance of having the delegate report back to the people who elected him. This process will begin on 1 October.

Radio Workers Discuss Call for Party Congress

FL2109031090 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 2230 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] An assembly meeting to discuss the call for the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] was held in a democratic and frank atmosphere in the headquarters of Radio Havana Cuba. Eduardo Quinones has more information on this event.

[Quinones] The assembly meeting was held at the headquarters of Radio Havana Cuba, a radio station which broadcasts on shortwave to different regions in our continent. This hard-working collective of workers, who daily broadcast the revolution's message abroad, expressed their views on current difficulties and possible solutions to some of these problems, thus fulfilling the purpose of the meetings which are being held throughout the entire island as the step preceding the Fourth PCC Congress.

Some of the many issues discussed in a democratic and frank atmosphere include the improvement of public services, health sectors, education, and the people's government management and representation.

Special attention was paid to the topic of the role the press should play in reporting more quickly and skillfully. It was also agreed to suggest further meetings of exemplary workers who can join the ranks of the PCC. Another of the many topics that was analyzed was the distribution of food in markets, which should be more efficient, as well as the topics of overcoming problems so that there is greater agricultural production and the proper practice of applying the socialist principle of each person working according to his ability and each person being compensated according to his work.

The participants also mentioned some leaders' standards of living, which are not in accordance with the deprivations the people are facing. They were not, however, implying that an equitable system be imposed although they did suggest that the example of Che Guevara as an austere leader linked to the needs of the masses should be recalled.

The idea that believers, who completely support the revolution and are willing to fight for it and its perfection, join the ranks of the PCC was positively received. It was also agreed to propose a revision of the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba regarding those sections that have an atheist nature or an atheist basis, as well as other sections that should reflect the times in which we live.

The assembly to discuss the call for the Fourth PCC Congress at the Radio Havana Cuba radio station was an exciting example of a sincere and open discussion of difficulties and the willingness of workers to resolve them, in addition to recognizing the undeniable progress that has been made.

Dissidents Advocate Independent, Socialist Country

PA2009215890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2234 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Havana, 19 Sep (EFE)—The dissident group Manifest for Harmony (MAR), in a declaration of principles, today asked for an independent, socialist, and democratic Cuba.

The organization, which has not yet been declared legal, considers itself part of the world's democratic left. It advocates a society that respects nature and human rights.

The MAR has indicated that it is willing to cooperate, without ideological illusions, with all the democratic political forces who feel responsible for Latin America's future and its inevitable need to integrate.

The MAR was formed in July and it is not known how many members comprise it. The MAR has said that it is convinced that the Cuban people will one day create a free, unified, and prosperous society—a Cuba for all Cubans, including those on the island and those who are living abroad.

According to the MAR declaration of principles, its members should promote social dialogue to replace ideological dogmatism with understanding and cooperation. It also advocates complete freedom within a de jure state, freedom to worship, and all the social initiatives intended to ensure human rights.

The MAR communique also opposes any chauvinism, authoritarianism, and personality cults, and condemns repression for political, ideological, religious, or racial motives.

Fabio Hurtado, Leonidas Penton, and Indamiro Restamo, the founders of the MAR, have stated that it is an advisory group engaged in study and in search of a channel for dialogue. It is willing to cooperate with government, as well as non-government institutions.

Railroads To Implement New System To Save Fuel

FL2009120290 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] After a careful study and consultations with the various provinces, the Cuban railroads enterprise will implement a new service system beginning on 1 October because of the need to save energy resources as much as possible. The system, based on linking the trains, was created to save resources without reducing the number of seats traditionally made available to passengers in the various regions. A single train with 15 passenger cars will provide services between Havana and (?some) province capitals.

Dominican Republic

Commentary on Efforts to Control Drug Trafficking

FL2009171790 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Examples from the world today show that the fight against drug trafficking and addiction is extremely difficult, extraordinarily costly, and painfully cruel. Until the present, the Dominican Republic has been able to control the situation. We could not say that drug trafficking does not exist or exists on a small scale and that drug addiction is under control. This is the case because it is true that because of the country's geographic position, and thanks to the drug traffickers from other latitudes, this country is always being used as a bridge for the reloading and transfer of these evil substances that are the number one scourge of humanity today.

But in recent days there have been some spectacular successes against drug trafficking, and those who are convicted are receiving exemplary sentences. There is a generalized awareness that it is necessary to attack this evil and reduce it to a minimum. The most recent and handy example is the seizure of a large consignment of cocaine in the Boca Chica area and the bringing to justice of most of those involved, more than half of whom are foreigners. We should congratulate the authorities of the General Directorate of Drug Control, who detected and located this multimillion dollar operation that was probably aimed at smuggling more than 1,000 kg of pure cocaine into U.S. territory.

It is a question of not backing down, of continuing and intensifying an attitude of rejecting drugs and pursuing drug traffickers. These demoniacal criminals must know and feel that the arm of the authorities is not weakening, and that on the contrary, the blows struck to dissuade them are becoming more and more harsh and inflexible, and that they will never be able to settle in here as has happened in most of the countries in the region.

Haiti

CEP Letter to Parties Outlines Election Status

FL2009180090 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in Creole 1030 GMT 19 Sep 90

["Excerpts" of a letter to political parties and candidates signed by Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] Vice President Mrs. Yva Youance; date not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] The CEP sent a letter to political party officials and to the political candidates for the presidency and other posts, inviting them to work together with the CEP to consolidate the foundations and activities of the elections. The CEP believes that with their help, there will be more control over the election process. In this letter, signed by Mrs. Yva Youance, the CEP discusses its accomplishments, its finances, receipts and expenses, and the commitment it has undertaken during the past months. It also comments on its current activities.

Mrs. Youance details the money received by the CEP: the balance received from the third CEP [the CEP that existed under General Prosper Avril's government] was 2,722 million gourdes [$544,400] on 12 June, 1990. Outstanding payments totalled 4 million gourdes [$800,000] on 2 August, 1990. She states that the government has promised to give the CEP 1 million gourdes [$200,000] each month. The CEP should have already sent requisitions for the months of August and September. Mrs. Youance explains that the amount of 1 million gourdes [$200,000] per month is not sufficient for the amount of work that needs to be done. On 3 August, the CEP wrote the government to inform them that the budget is in deficit. [passage omitted] Many expenses are incurred on behalf of the CEP for civic education and for the installation of the computer service, financed by an American institution called IFES [expansion not known]. The CEP does not handle this money, according to Mrs. Youance's letter; the CEP just requests what it needs and the equipment provided remains the property of IFES [passage omitted]

The same letter comments on the CEP's role and the role of the political parties, that the CEP ought to work together with the [political] parties to guarantee the role of the people in the government of the country. Five elections are being prepared now: Communal Section Administration Council [Casec], municipal, parliamentary, senatorial, and presidential. If these elections are well conducted, after 7 February 1991 the government will be ready to become a government of the people, sovereign people (?willing) to control the power properly. This is what democracy means. The CEP would like to feel support from the political parties in carrying out its mission. Likewise, the CEP ought to support the political parties, but it must support all of them together without bias. The CEP must fight to be independent in the face of the parties the same way it is fighting to be independent in the face of the government, other institutions within the country, foreign countries, and international organizations which are helping Haiti. Otherwise, the elections will remain what they have always been in Haiti, a pretentious exercise. [passage omitted]

The CEP remarks that the political parties should take part in campaigns of motivation to get everyone to register and participate in the elections. It also makes suggestions regarding organization of the elections. Regarding ballots, for example, the system of one ballot for each candidate or each cartel created many problems in the past, especially in the scrutiny of the elections because of the abundance of official papers that were circulating. [passage omitted]

For the 1990 elections, the CEP decided to use only one ballot for Casec elections, one for municipal elections, one for parliamentary elections, one for senatorial elections, and one for presidential elections. Thus, regardless of the number of candidates for each election, there will be no more than five different kinds of ballots altogether. All candidates for each election will be on the same ballot. [passage omitted]

The CEP discusses the role of the government in the democratic process, as well as CEP's financial problems. According to the president [Ertha Pascal Trouillot], the money the CEP needs must be found by the government. Previously, the CEP did not receive funds because it had not yet produced the electoral calendar. The calendar has now been published and the money has not arrived. The dates must therefore be changed. [passage omitted]

The last page of the letter states that they [the CEP] will hold elections nevertheless. In this same letter, sent to the officials of the political parties, Mrs. Youance explains that though the letter is very long, there are still additional points that must be made: that the CEP is an independent institution; that it has its role in a democratic system; that it has a place beside the three other major powers of the state; and that after the elections, the members of the CEP will have to retire so that a government can be properly installed on 7 February, 1991. [passage omitted]

Members of Army, CEP, BED's Meet in Gonaives

FL2009185090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Excerpts] An important meeting was held yesterday in Gonaives regarding the safety of the population during the coming elections. The meeting was attended by the members of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] and several military men in charge. The Army guaranteed once more [rephrases], declared clearly that the security of the population would be guaranteed during the elections. [passage omitted].

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The CEP, the Haitian Army, and the people in charge of the Electoral Departmental Bureau [BED's] assembled yesterday, at the hotel "Family" in Gonaives to discuss election matters. The 1990 elections and security were the topics at the meeting in the city of independence, Gonaives. It is the first meeting of this kind that has been held in the upper area of Artibonite regarding electoral matters. The meeting of the CEP members, the Committee for Coordination of Security and Electoral Activities, the presidents of the BED's, and the officers in command of the different departments was held behind closed doors.

During the assembly, the committee in charge of assuring the security of the people proved to the CEP that they were willing to assume such a duty to the end. The people in charge of BED's expressed to the officers in command of different departments their satisfaction with the work that they have already accomplished in the field throughout the different regions. The participants are convinced that this results from the unity of the Army and the CEP today for the organization of elections in Haiti. On this occasion, we met Colonel Alix Silva, member of the Committee for Coordination of Security and Electoral Activities, who declared that the Army High Command was willing to provide security during the electoral process to ease the population's fears. According to Col. Silva, it is a plus in the framework of the electoral process and elections will certainly be held safely in Haiti. [passage omitted]

CEP President Sabalat is satisfied with the progress that his colleagues have made in the electoral process. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Jamaica

Opposition Leader Dismisses Charter Minister

FL2009140490 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Jamaica's opposition leader Edward Seaga has dismissed the opposition charter minister for public utilities and transport, Karl Samuda. He was alleged to have violated the party's principle of collective responsibility when he gave a speech on Tuesday to the Chamber of Commerce in Jamaica in which he outlined a program for economic development.

Samuda 'At Odds With' Seaga

FL2009161390 Bridgetown CANA in English 1539 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept 20, CANA—Leader of the opposition Jamaica Labour Party [JLP], Edward Seaga, has fired JLP spokesman on public utilities and transport, Karl Samuda. Samuda, he said, had violated the principle of collective responsibility.

In a speech to the monthly board meeting of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, Samuda said the Foreign Exchange Control Act should be repealed. He said the de-regulation of foreign exchange by the government leaves in place all the regulatory mechanisms contained in the Act.

"We have simply seen a shift, which some have called abdication, in the responsibility of setting the rate from the Bank of Jamaica to the commercial banks, who incidentally now hold the handle while the rest of the private sector holds the blade."

In his letter to Samuda, Seaga said the spokesman was fully aware of the party's position on the question of exchange control regulations. The position taken by Samuda was contrary to that of the party, Seaga pointed out. Besides he had commented on issues which were outside his portfolio responsibilities, Seaga said.

Seaga himself had told a fund-raising banquet on the weekend that the government was relinquishing its responsibilities in the area of exchange control and said government needed to keep tight management grip on foreign exchange control.

Samuda, along with four other members of the Jamaica Labour Party (called "the gang of five") have been at odds with Seaga for many months now. He said in a radio interview Thursday morning that despite efforts by the five there has not been any communications between themselves and Seaga for the past six months. Nevertheless he has no intention to resign from the party, he said. Samuda said he spoke in a private capacity and did not purport to present the views of the party.

Report on Visit by Nicaraguan President Chamorro

PA2109035590 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro arrived in our country on 17 September [as heard]. She came to try to obtain better payment conditions for Nicaragua's debt with Mexico. The Nicaraguan president thanked the Mexican president for making her visit possible when she arrived.

[Begin Chamorro recording] I thank President Carlos Salinas with all my heart for inviting me to his country for these few hours. This will allow me to talk, to fill my heart with the Mexican good wishes, and to discuss the situation in our countries, especially in Central America. [end recording]

During her eight-hour visit, President Chamorro met with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. Our President told her that Mexico would not abandon Nicaragua and would help it find ways to lighten its 982 million-peso debt [amount as heard]. After the meeting, which lasted approximately two hours, the Mexican President had lunch with Mrs. Chamorro. The presidents signed a joint communique on bilateral matters before Mrs. Chamorro departed. The communique indicates that 30 days has been allowed to establish the bases for renegotiating the debt. In the multilateral sphere, the presidents agreed to continue to support the Latin American pacification process.

The Nicaraguan president visited the Guadulupe Basilica to pray in the afternoon. Later she met with the Nicaraguan community in Mexico and told her fellow countrymen that she was confident that Nicaragua would move forward. Mrs. Chamorro spoke with journalists at approximately 1930 and said that she was happy with the results of her visit and left Mexico with an optimistic attitude. A few minutes before she boarded the Mexican Air Force aircraft to return to her country, she admitted that Nicaragua's economic and labor situation was disastrous. She said that she would continue to promote the national concerted effort as it would enable the economic situation to improve. Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and members of her Cabinet were seen off by Mexican Foreign Minister Fernando Solana.

Correction to Support Found for Trade Agreement

WA2109114290

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Substantial Support Found for Trade Agreement," published in the 19 September Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 6:

Column one, make sourceline read: 90CA0114A Mexico City NEXOS in Spanish No 151, Jul 90 'Cuaderno de NEXOS' Supplement pp VI-VII. (correcting sourceline)

El Salvador

FMLN-Government Talks End Without Agreement

PA1809182390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1751 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] San Jose, 18 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Sources linked to the negotiations have reported that the sixth round of peace talks between the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas ended here today without any basic agreement. The sixth round of talks, which started on 13 September, ended with only the agreement that new talks will be held in Mexico before 4 November.

Cristiani on Peace Process, Upcoming U.S. Visit

PA2109042490 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1734 GMT 20 Sep 90

[News conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with local and foreign reporters and unidentified moderator at the Presidential Palace in San Salvador—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Cristiani] We would like to clarify a few things regarding reports that have been published on the recent meeting in San Jose. First, we would like to say that from the beginning, the government has said that after ten years of conflict, this would not be an easy process. In fact, it is very complex, and, therefore, we noted the possibility that we would face difficulties and obstacles. We felt and we still feel, however, that this is a serious process. The process continues. This is very important. The message I would like to stress now is that we must all understand that the most important factor in the quest for peace is that the peace process must continue.

Thus far, the process has had some important results, which we must not overlook so as to maintain the proper perspective. For the first time, an agreement was signed. It was an agreement on human rights, which was signed in July at the second meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica. We believe that this was a sign that the process can be the path toward peace.

Second, we must mention that this week we were pleased to see the culmination of the efforts of the inter-party commission regarding reaching agreements through consensus on electoral matters. Although those agreements were not the result of direct talks with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], we believe that this is another effort that has ended successfully. We would, therefore, like to publicly thank the political parties for their efforts in reaching that consensus. As we have said since we invited political parties, that agreement by consensus will be fully supported by the government.

We must also stress that the process should continue. We will have the opportunity to meet with the UN mediator during our next trip to the United Nations, specifically with the secretary general, in an attempt to find new mechanisms to facilitate the process so that expectations for solving the problem as soon as possible can be met.

We believe that if there has been an obstacle, it has been the FMLN'S intransigent position, which became particularly evident not at the most recent meeting, but the at previous meeting, when no advances could be made on one subject—the Armed Forces. We believe that the FMLN is trying to hamper the process for strategic reasons and that unfortunately, those strategic reasons are only intended to intensify their acts of violence and terrorism, which clearly violate the agreements on human rights signed in July.

As a government, however, we will continue our efforts and actions to end the violence as soon as possible. We will do everything we can so that the Salvadoran people can live amid peace and tranquillity. We hope that the FMLN will modify its position. We believe that the Salvadoran people are aware of the FMLN strategy and that they should demand that the FMLN sit down once and for all to seriously negotiate, and not to use the process strategically to its advantage, in other words for the benefit of an extremist minority in our country.

I believe that my forthcoming visit to the United States, to New York, will permit me to speak with the UN secretary general and to find some mechanism to accelerate the process, to make progress, and to overcome the obstacles that the FMLN has created. This is how we see it.

I believe that the Salvadoran people must strengthen the peace process with their active participation. We know that sometimes it is frustrating to see that the violence does not stop right away. We had all hoped that around mid-September the long-awaited moment would come. The Salvadoran people must actively participate by demanding that the FMLN not use the negotiating process in a tactical or strategic way, and by demanding that the process be used to serve the interests of the Salvadoran people, who want an end to the violence.

[Moderator] Francisco Espinoza, of Radio Verbo, you may ask your question.

[Espinoza] Mr. President, the social forces of the country have spoken in favor of a dialogue taking place in San Salvador, as the FMLN has proposed, but the government did not agree with that. Could you be specific in explaining why the government disagrees with holding the dialogue in San Salvador?

[Cristiani] First, because we think that the peace process must be serious. The norms that rule this process were established in Geneva and neither of the two sides may use the process for propaganda purposes. The FMLN is just trying to find ways to get favorable propaganda and to employ demagoguery, and the government will not play that game. The Salvadoran people must demand that the FMLN forget its tactics and its strategy and that instead of looking for ways to gain notoriety, it should

seriously consider the true interests of the Salvadoran people and start working reasonably and promptly for peace.

[Moderator] Francisco Quiroga, of Radio America.

[Quiroga] [Words indistinct] that the people stop believing in the dispositions of both the government and the FMLN toward the dialogue because another round of talks has concluded and no important agreement has been reached to end the war.

[Cristiani] I do not think the people should stop believing in the process. This is what I tried to say in my introduction. I am sure that the people know that the FMLN is trying to manipulate the dialogue process tactically and strategically. We must not stop believing, however, in a process that nevertheless has produced more progress than any other in the past. This is a serious process in which the United Nations is participating. What the people must do is to demand from the FMLN the seriousness that the situation merits. The people are tired of acts of violence and terrorism such as those the FMLN is carrying out. The matter demands patience. This is not an easy process. This is a complex process that is being further complicated by FMLN intransigence. The people must demand that the FMLN act with the seriousness that the situation demands.

[Moderator] Daniela Lombardo, [words indistinct].

[Lombardo] Mr. President, [words indistinct] to carry out the dialogue, is the government [words indistinct]?

[Cristiani] We have some ideas, including some ideas we presented in Costa Rica. I do not want to comment on this because it would have to be handled through an intermediary. We believe that the process must be more dynamic. You have heard me say from the beginning that we do not see any justification for the big delay between meetings. Since no agreement was reached in the September meeting, there is no excuse for not demanding more dynamism. We will discuss these mechanisms with the UN secretary general, and he will have to present them to the FMLN. We hope that the FMLN will reconsider forcing the Salvadoran people to continue to endure violence and terrorism.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] My question deals with the same issue, with the search for a new mechanism [words indistinct] since the previous meetings have not produced much progress, [words indistinct] the United Nations a more direct proposal to secure tangible progress?

[Cristiani] Given that some of you strongly believe that no progress has been achieved, I reiterate and maintain that some progress has indeed been achieved; in fact, there has been greater progress than in the previous ten years. We should not be expected to reach an agreement at each and every meeting. I personally believe that there is greater rapprochement, even though the FMLN has refused to admit this on many occasions. Instead, it is trying to introduce retrogressive proposals. At the penultimate meeting in San Jose, the FMLN submitted a new proposal on the Armed Forces.

I maintain and argue that there has been unprecedented progress, and I believe that we are involved in an irreversible process that will lead us to peace. As for the mediation issue, I believe that the Geneva agreement is very clear about it, because point three specifies the mediation mechanisms that will be used. The FMLN has opposed active mediation, even though it signed a document agreeing that this would be one of two mechanisms to be used in this process. The FMLN and government had discussed and accepted the UN role in point three. We believe that this agreement will make possible the use of mechanisms to expedite the process and make it more dynamic.

[Moderator] Maria Cortina of NOTIMEX.

[Cortina] Mr. President, I will ask you about another topic. Could you brief us on the results of the meeting of Central American economy ministers with Mexican officials?

[Cristiani] I prefer to wait, because we agreed that the governments of Mexico and Venezuela would reveal the results contained in the official communiques. I can only say that there was indeed an agreement and that those two governments will make it public. I will gladly comment on the agreement after Mexico and Venezuela officially reveal it. I will be free to comment on the agreement then. At this time, however, I must honor the commitment that those two governments will make the official announcement.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Cristiani] [laughing] We will comment about that when [words indistinct].

[Moderator] Elder Gomez of ACAN-EFE.

[Gomez] Mr. President, what is the possibility of a cease-fire during the next meeting in Mexico given that you rejected the guerrillas' proposal and do not plan to budge?

[Cristiani] I believe that the premise to your question needs some clarification, because it is not quite correct. We have not said that we will take no step backward. From the very beginning, we have specified how far we would go, and the United Nations and the FMLN knew this. We said that we were willing to discuss the qualitative and quantitative restructuring of the Armed Forces, but we never agreed to place the issue of the very existence of the Armed Forces on the negotiating table.

I wish to say that the FMLN has indeed taken a step backward since it submitted an initial proposal in Mexico City and maintained it at the first San Jose meeting. In my opinion, there was significant rapprochement between our positions. The FMLN took a step

backward, however, when it suggested the disbanding of the Armed Forces and not just its restructuring.

The country's social and political groups have already issued their opinions in this regard, and I believe that the FMLN is alone in defending its position. We believe that by abandoning this position and going back to the proposal it submitted at the Oaxtepec meeting, the FMLN would be showing the first sign of wanting to reach an agreement and the rationality needed to discuss the issues at hand.

[Moderator] Maria Dolores Sandiac from the new ,paper UNOMASUNO has the floor.

[Sandiac] Mr. President, this morning a local newspaper criticized statements by Minister Santamaria, who said that the reason why there is no agreement between the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN is the division between the FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front) and the FMLN. [Words indistinct] position or what?

[Cristiani] I would be very surprised to hear anyone speaking about a division between the FMLN and the FDR. The FDR is a legal political organization comprising three political groups. I believe, and I would dare to assure you, that Dr. Santamaria was referring to the division among the five groups that comprise the FMLN. We believe these groups have not yet agreed on a single position, and we think this is partly the reason why the FMLN is playing strategic games. These groups do not seem to be able to reach an agreement. We received information about very serious discussions taking place among the FMLN groups. The discussions stemmed from the signing of the human rights agreement in Nicaragua [as heard] before the second meeting in San Jose. The result of those discussions has been the toughening of the FMLN position during the second round of talks in San Jose. I believe the division among those five groups is influencing the FMLN strategy.

[Moderator] We are now going to begin with the questions in English. Mario Rosenthal [words indistinct].

[Cristiani] In Spanish, please.

[Unidentified speaker] [Passage indistinct].

[Rosenthal] Mr. President, for an observer who wants to have a wider perspective of these talks and who wants to take into account the well-known [word indistinct] Soviet strategy [words indistinct] as far as talks and [word indistinct] with the West are concerned, the FMLN is obviously making [word indistinct] demands knowing that [words indistinct] they will be rejected. In other words, they do not wish to reach an agreement. By taking those demands seriously, however, the government is playing the FMLN's game. Thus, what is the game? Some observers believe that they want to delay the talks until the U.S. Congress decides whether or not to suspend the military assistance or [words indistinct] for the Salvadoran Government. The Salvadoran Government is very interested in reaching an agreement before the U.S. Congress makes a decision on that issue. Should the government not demand more frequent talks, as you have suggested?

[Cristiani] This is how we view the situation: We believe that the process began with an attempt to [word indistinct] the possibility of implementing the process and carrying it to term. I will show you this situation with my hands: The FMLN assumed a position here. In view of the position assumed by the FMLN, the government of the republic assumed a position over here. The obvious thing to do is to seek a rapprochement between the two positions. That is what a negotiation process involves. But what did the FMLN do next? It assumed a position here.

We have two options. If we were to continue a purely tactical strategy of negotiation, we would withdraw our first proposal and move over here and draw farther away. We believe that this is not acting seriously. We believe that an effort must be made to end the conflict. This is why we maintain ourselves here and have voiced our willingness to reach a rapprochement, but a rapprochement based on the position that the FMLN submitted first—that is, its position at the Huaxtepec meeting—because the other is a purely tactical move. It is a strategy to block any possible rapprochement. It is a position that they knew was impossible to accept, even before they submitted it, as you said, and so much so that the first formal document of the government expressly stated that the disappearance of the Armed Forces is not a topic on the negotiating table. That is the position they adopted after that [word indistinct].

We believe that we are committed to the Salvadoran people and that we must be serious and respectful toward the Salvadoran people, and that we must not be blamed for the deterioration of the process, which is what the FMLN is trying to do by negotiating tactics that could have other purposes, as the ones you mentioned.

I think that it is time we realize that the Salvadoran people want peace and this should be above the interests of extremist minorities like the FMLN and political parties, regardless of what tendency they represent. We have also said from the beginning that we want everyone to participate in the peace process so that there will be no winners or losers in any aspect. That is why sometimes we might appear naive or look as though we are falling into an FMLN trap. We are not, however, falling into any FMLN tactical trap. We know exactly what the FMLN is doing, and we will not let ourselves be manipulated toward that end. As the government, we must show the necessary seriousness and political willingness to end the conflict, which is what the Salvadoran people have demanded from us at the polls.

[Moderator] Tom Gibbs of London's BBC.

[Gibbs, in English] Yes. Later in the month you are going to visit the United States. It is a time when the U.S. Government and Congress appear to be reconsidering its policy. What would be your message, or what would you

say to those in Congress and in the administration who would like to see cuts in the aid to El Salvador? That is the first question, and second, you mentioned divisions within the FMLN over what they would like to see out of the negotiation process. Is it not also true that there are divisions within the government alliance, the government, the Army and different areas of the Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena] in what they would like to see at the negotiation process?

[Cristiani, in English] [Words indistinct] both the Armed Forces and the Arena party have publicly stated their (?proposals) for the peace process. There is no division with respect to that proposal, and if they may be individual institutions, one political and one military, they are both behind and very supportive of the process and (?both) have been working diligently in this case. I am talking about the Armed Forces in their aspect and the Arena party in their role. There is no such division in respect to that matter.

Second, the main purpose of the visit is the trip to the United Nations, talks with President Bush, and maybe people in Congress. If I had a chance to say a message, it would be that this peace is probably as close as it has ever been in El Salvador, and that the wrong message coming out from the U.S. Government or the U.S. Congress is detrimental for this purpose. [Words indistinct] one of the FMLN's possible strategies is to [words indistinct] and it is obvious that they are launching another campaign. I have a feeling you all have been invited to next Friday's exhibition of that campaign they are launching in the United States [words indistinct] yesterday at the National Press Club in Washington to get that.

We feel that the best way to get the FMLN to take seriously what should be the best possibility of peace in the country is to give them a clear sign that violence and terrorism is no longer accepted by the U.S. Government or the U.S. Congress, and that therefore, the government, and I am talking about the Salvadoran Government, would be willing inclusively to [words indistinct] once a cease-fire verified by the United Nations is in place. We would no longer expect military aid, and we would appreciate that aid becoming more useful in social and economic programs in the country. That would be my message.

This is the least [word indistinct] where a wrong message would come out of the United States. That is the main purpose, as I said, in the visit to the United Nations. That is where we work hard in trying to get the process moving forward faster than it has in the past and that would be our main purpose.

[Moderator] [Name indistinct] from ABC news.

[Reporter, in English] Mr. President, do you think there is a real possibility that military aid to El Salvador will be cut by the U.S. Congress and [words indistinct] would be the consequences? Do you plan to deal with this issue with congressmen when you go to Washington?

[Cristiani, in English] I just explained this would be an opportunity to speak to members of Congress in the United States. Obviously, the United States has the freedom to do whatever they like with the issue. My message would be simply to state that nothing is more important to El Salvador than peace, that this is carrying on the consolidation of this democratic process that has been the objective of the United States in the past with El Salvador and, therefore, whatever comes out of the U.S. Congress should be a clear message that violence and terrorism no longer should be going on in our country. Even I would be willing to [words indistinct] the government would not be asking for military aid after a cease-fire [words indistinct] but we would basically ask for support for the reconstruction period in our country and that [words indistinct] economic programs. But I think that if the opportunity arises, that would be my message, if I feel that the military aid will be cut, from what I have seen [words indistinct] they are both talking about replacing aid, not cutting aid. But as I say, the U.S. Congress has the independence to decide on whatever they would like. My word [words indistinct].

[Moderator] Thank you Mr. President, thank you, journalists.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Cristiani] I am going to the United Nations. There are two events. One is the summit in favor of [word indistinct]. This event will take place Saturday and Sunday. On Monday, El Salvador will have the floor in the National Assembly, and we plan to speak at the United Nations. While there we will have the opportunity to speak with the UN secretary general in private, obviously about the peace process.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Cristiani] I would say that this is a possibility. Somebody asked me if I thought this was a possibility and I said yes, because the information we had was that after the human rights agreement was signed, the FMLN negotiators had serious talks among themselves for four day or five days in Nicaragua, and the fact that they emerged with a more radical position means that there is not a common position; it means that there is an internal crisis. I am saying this is a possibility. I do not know for certain and no one has told me anything about it.

[Reporter] Last night some young men were arrested in an area near the University of El Salvador [words indistinct] Mejicanos. Do you have any information as to where they are now and what will happen to them, and are they really members of the FMLN?

[Cristiani] According to the report I have on this, private, not government, security agents captured some elements who were placing bombs in San Antonio Abad, where some light poles have been damaged. They were delivered to the security corps. Apparently, the authorities found explosives and other evidence. That was

enough to send them to court, and I suppose this is where they will end up. [Moderator] Thank you, gentlemen. You are very kind.

FMLN Protests Jamming of Radio Broadcasts

PA2009173790 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 20 Sep 90

["Bulletin" issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front on 19 September]

[Text] The FMLN reports to the Salvadoran people, social organizations, political parties, and to international public opinion:

1. Coinciding with the recent round of talks in San Jose, Costa Rica, Alfredo Cristiani's regime and the Armed Forces have increased their jamming of FMLN radio broacasts.

2. Despite agreements for the mutual respect of free expression of ideas, the regime has begun jamming Radio Venceremos and Radio Farabundo Marti FM broadcasts.

3. We believe that the purpose of this jamming is to prevent Salvadorans from learning of the FMLN peace proposals and to prevent the people from learning about the alarming increase in murders and arrests of civilians by the Army, paramilitary and repressive units..

4. The regime's repeated behavior not only shows its clumsiness in handling ideas, but its extreme political shortcomings. The regime cannot tolerate our ideas, despite their huge machinery for psychological aggression and disinformation.

5. We reject the regime's latest sample of totalitarian thinking, and we demand that the jamming of our radio broadcasts cease. We call upon the people to reject this antidemocratic behavior. We call upon international public opinion to demand social justice from the Cristiani regime and the Armed Forces and for them to end their persecution of democratic ideas.

[Signed] Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, 19 September 1990.

Colonel Claims Weapons Found at Jesuits Residence

PA2009164690 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] According to a judicial source, Colonel Heriberto Hernandez has testified in court that the police confiscated weapons from a house belonging to the Jesuit priests just days before the 11 November 1989 guerrilla offensive. Hernandez, Treasury Police director at the time the six Jesuit priests were murdered on 16 November allegedly by soldiers, said before the Fourth Penal Court that he had ordered a search of the Jesuit residence. According to Col. Hernandez, weapons were seized from the residence, but he cannot remember when, the type, or the amount.

The military chief said, however, that after the weapons were seized, there was no investigation. In addition, there were no clashes with the guerrillas during the search, and he added that he was unsure if anybody was present at the time of the search. So far, the Jesuit Order in El Salvador has not commented on the testimony of Col. Hernandez. Three days before the despicable murders, President Alfredo Cristiani ordered a search of the priests' home, located on the campus of the Central American University [UCA], with a member from the Armed Forces National Intelligence Directorate participating.

Civilian and military authorities of El Salvador on various occasions have accused the murdered priests of being leaders of the Salvadoran guerrillas. Hernandez, as well as Captain Alfonso Chavez Garcia, were interrogated by the Governmental Criminal Act Investigative Commission. After a communique from junior officers accused them of being involved in the murder of the Jesuits.

Chavez Garcia, a member of the special antiterrorist command, under General Staff, died in action a few months ago in San Salvador, said Hernandez, who was recently appointed the Salvadoran defense attache in Nicaragua. The military chief confirmed his attendance at a meeting of militay commanders held on the night of 15 November, just hours before the murder of the six Jesuits along with two employees of the UCA. He said that he did not remember if the meeting was about information received from military intelligence on a labor union leaders meeting to be held at the UCA where Rector Ignacio Ellacuria, five other priests, the cook, and her 16-year-old daughter were murdered as they slept.

Jesuits Deny Weapons Charge

PA2009235590 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The Jesuits in El Salvador have strongly denied that the Army found weapons in one of their residences prior to the rebel offensive of November 1989, as Colonel Heriberto Hernandez has testified. It is not true that weapons were found in the Jesuit residence, said Spanish Jesuit Rogelio Pedraz. Hernandez had declared before the Fourth Penal Court that he ordered the search of a Jesuit residence, where weapons were found, according to a report issued by the Supreme Court. The military leader states that he does not remember the date, the type, or the number of weapons confiscated by members of the Treasury Police, a force he directed in 1989.

Pedraz asked Col. Hernandez to say when, where, and what type of arms were found in the Jesuit residence, known as the San Ignacio de Loyola Retreat, located in southwestern San Salvador. If this had been so, it would have been published in full detail during the campaign, said the Jesuit. He added that this qualifies the testimony of Hernandez, who has been appointed to be the Salvadoran defense attache in Nicaragua, as slander. He should have made these statements when he says these

things took place, not ten months later when he is not in the country and has no troops under his command.

Referring to Col. Hernandez' new post, Pedraz added: It seems he is angry because they removed him from power and sent him to sit behind a desk. Central American University [UCA] Rector Ignacio Ellacuria, five other priests, and two employees were murdered on 16 November 1989 by members of the Armed Forces.

Colonel Said 'Responsible' in Jesuits' Deaths

PA2109044990 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Orlando Zepeda has conceded before the Fourth Penal Judge that Colonel Guillermo Benavides is responsible for the deaths of the Jesuit priests, given that he was the commanding officer in the area where the crime was committed, but he denied that the action had been planned beforehand. In a Supreme Court communique published on 19 September, part of the deposition of the military chief, who appeared in person to testify in the case of the Jesuit priests, was reprinted. According to the court, Col. Zepeda stated that Col. Benavides received orders only from the Joint Chiefs of Staff by way of Group III operations, under the responsibility of Col. Joaquin Cerna Flores.

Zepeda admitted, however, that according to the chain of military command, Benavides was able to make decisions on his own, without consulting with his superiors. The deputy defense minister also stated that it is not true that the murder of the priests had been planned beforehand, because this goes against regulations, standards, and the nature of the Armed Forces.

Archbishop: U.S. Policy, Congress Bewildering

PA2109041490 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 17 Sep 90 p 6

[Text] [San Salvador Archbishop] Monsignor Arturo Rivera y Damas yesterday said that he is bewildered by U.S. policy, particularly the attitude of the U.S. Congress toward El Salvador.

He pointed out that in the Jesuit case, for example, they have said that if the culprits of this crime are not punished, there will be a suspension or reduction in aid, but they are also saying that military aid will not be reduced should there be an offensive.

In saying this after his homily yesterday, the pastor was voicing his fear that impunity would prevail in this crime and aid will continue flowing in under the pretext that there could be an offensive.

As for the dialogue, Rivera expressed hope that a specific agreement will be reached and added that he could ask the Bishops' Conference of El Salvador to meet to assess the situation and issue its position regarding the parties in conflict.

As for the human rights situation, Rivera said that, according to reports from the [church's] Legal Assistance Office, the past week has left much to be desired. He mentioned the case of Colombian political prisoner Carlos Alberto Lopez Ocampo, who has been repeatedly transferred from jail to jail in the evening and harshly abused. He is in a punishment cell in Gotera today, Rivera added. The monsignor said in his homily that the helicopters that entertained the crowd during the 15 September independence parade had "sowed terror on 7 September in El Barillo, Suchitoto, where mortars and bombs ruined the crops. [no closing quotation marks as published] "Los Prados Canton, La Laguna, however, was even more unfortunate, because a mortar killed two children on 12 September."

Rivera also criticized the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] for kidnapping three minors, whom he identified as Jose Salvador Garcia, Marco Antonio Garcia Lobato, and Joel Zaqueo Cortez, who are 13, 15, and 17 years old, respectively. This took place, he said, on 9 September in Santa Cruz de la Loma Canton, Santiago Nonualco.

"All these abuses of human dignity demand that the dialogue that is taking place in San Jose reach political agreements to bring closer to us the day of peace," Rivera added.

The archbishop also regretted that Articles 100 and 104 of the General Education Law are promoting the possibility of denying opportunities to the country's most needy people and this is why, he added, "we join those who are asking that such articles be reconsidered."

Guatemala

Education Minister Replaced, Other Changes

PA2009183390 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 19 Sep 90 p 3

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo on 18 September confirmed the appointment of Edgar Barrios as the new education minister, replacing Carlos Escobar Montenegro. Cerezo said there will be more changes in the Cabinet before the end of this week.

He explained that the change in education ministers was for two reasons: 1) because steps must be taken regarding the educational reform and control of private education, matters which affect the citizens; and 2) because commissions are being organized to prepare for the transfer of power to the new government to be installed on 14 January 1991.

Cerezo said that in the next four days he will announce more important appointments, especially ministers, in preparation for the transfer of power.

Official sources reported yesterday that Finance Minister Francisco Pinto Casasola might be replaced by

Marciano Castillo, who is secretary of economic planning, or by Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera Irias. It was also said that Economy Minister Oscar Pineda Robles will be appointed president of the Bank of Guatemala replacing Lizardo Sosa. Pineda Robles would be replaced by his current deputy minister, Antonio Blanco. The sources also mentioned the possibility that Government Minister Carlos Morales Villatoro, and Health Minister Carlos Gehlert Mata might be replaced.

Nicaragua

Chamorro Addresses National Dialogue Initiation

PA2109002390 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1556 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Speech by President Violeta Chamorro at a ceremony to initiate the national dialogue at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Text] Good morning to all the friends present here: His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, members of the National Assembly Board of Directors, Supreme Court magistrates, members of the Supreme Electoral Council, Vice President Virgilio Godoy Reyes, Army General Humberto Ortega, distinguished cabinet members, and fellow countrymen.

When I agreed to become a presidential candidate, I committed myself to comply with what we called the National Opposition Union [UNO] government program. Supported by most Nicaraguan voters, that program is why the then opposition became the current government. That program is my promise to the Nicaraguan people. That program is also the mandate that the Nicaraguan people have given to the government that I head. It includes the obligation of leading a government of all Nicaraguans with the support of all local groups. The Government of National Salvation, which I head, also promised to make a national commitment to every sector in the country. This commitment is to seek reconciliation among all Nicaraguans, the construction of democracy, and the attainment of peace, and to overcome the country's overall crisis.

Since I became Nicaraguan president on 25 April, the government's actions have included eliminating compulsory military service and the unjustified surveillance of citizens. We restored freedom of religion and freedom of the press. We issued an amnesty law and we strengthened the peace process through the demobilization of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] and by reducing the size of the Nicaraguan Army. All of these actions have contributed toward establishing an atmosphere of trust that has encouraged thousands of Nicaraguans to return to their country and contribute to the national reconstruction process.

These achievements reflect the spirit of reconciliation that inspires my government. We have taken important steps within the framework of this reconciliation process, but there is still much to be done. To consolidate peace and mutual trust, we must bring together the members of the RN, members of the Army, and Nicaraguan civilians. It is not just the members of the RN and the Army, however, who need to become productive members of society. Every citizen who wishes to, should join our society.

My government admits that there are epidemics, malnutrition, illiteracy, poverty, and shortcomings in public services, but it has firmly and responsibly taken on these challenges. We have not fooled ourselves into thinking that everything is working just fine. In view of our country's reality and inspired by a spirit of reconciliation and joint effort, I have called upon all civilian and productive organizations and workers to participate in this social and economic national dialogue.

Because of the importance that the government of national salvation assigns to this process, we have invited representatives of social groups that will not be directly responsible for the results of the social and economic national dialogue. We want them to be aware of the process so that they can contribute to this task by supporting the organizations that will make concerted efforts.

I also thought it was appropriate to invite representatives of all the friendly nations and international organizations that are trying to help us move forward. All of them, especially those that can provide economic assistance, have consistently told us that we, Nicaraguans, must solve our own country's problems. That is true. Nicaragua's problems cannot be solved with foreign resources alone. The solution to our problems is not merely to seek international aid. Rather the solution is to adopt specific measures and to change our ways of doing things to create new jobs, to increase production, and to promote everyone's well-being.

We do not have to adopt many of these measures immediately. Some of them are painful measures. Unfortunately, no mechanisms, which lead to the elimination of inflation and economic stability without causing unemployment and reducing production, have yet been discovered. With this national social and economic dialogue, we want to reach certain agreements among producers, workers, and the government. These agreements will help us to lower the social and economic cost of the economic stabilization process. We must make it absolutely clear that stabilizing our economy will be a difficult and painful process. Without economic stability, however, it will be impossible to increase production and create new jobs. It is, therefore, essential to drastically reduce inflation. The main objective is to equitably distribute the impact that this process will have on our society. The burden must be shared by every sector of our society, but we must always try to protect the most needy. To equitably distribute the social and economic costs of the economic stabilization process, we

need to reach certain agreements, and we need to make social and economic concerted efforts.

As long as the Nicaraguan people fail to make those efforts, no one will help us reconstruct our country. During their meetings abroad, all our ministers have received that same message. All the representatives of international organizations who have visited Nicaragua over the past few years have reiterated that same message. Representatives of all the friendly nations that want to help us have personally delivered that same message to me. In brief, if we want foreign assistance, we must first help ourselves by reaching an agreement. Nothing else will do. This government will not make the mistake of lying to the people who elected it by a wide majority. We will always have the courage to tell the truth.

As the president of all Nicaraguans, regardless of their political preferences or social status, as the president of the wealthy and the needy, producers and workers, and soldiers and civilians, I urge you all to participate in this national dialogue with open hearts and open minds, for the future of our nation and our children and for our own well-being. I invite the militants of all the political groups in the country to put aside their doubts and distrust. These political groups should assume the responsibility of their civic actions to protect the interests of the people they represent within a dialogue that will benefit us all.

The dialogue that my government is here proposing to you is an open dialogue without inflexible positions or initial obligations, except for the obligation of listening to each group's ideas to then reach agreements that will benefit all Nicaraguans. The social and economic concerted effort will not only benefit the government, it will benefit the civilian population and each and every citizen.

You, the representatives of organizations attending this national dialogue, have an historic responsibility. Future Nicaraguan generations will congratulate you for your civic responsibility and success. My government is giving you the opportunity to assume that historic responsibility. I hope you do assume that responsibility. My government will assume its responsibilities. Its goal is to bring our country out of its misery and instability to build a better Nicaragua for our children.

The future is ours. Long live Nicaragua! Thank you very much.

FSLN Not To Join in Dialogue

PA2009213490 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] The FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] will not participate in convening the national dialogue, because it does not want to be an accomplice to the Chamorro government's political plan to implement economic measures that will seriously affect most Nicaraguans. Meanwhile, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, who has been described as the creator of the national dialogue, said on 19 September that the dialogue will be held with whoever comes. Lacayo also announced that the economic measures he considers vital to adjusting the national economy, through public spending cuts, will not be discarded.

In addition, social tension in the country is on the rise. There is no urban bus service along most Managua routes. Transportation Minister Jaime Icabalceta has asked private bus company owners to yield to National Bus Enterprise employee demands that they be included in the privatization process. Also, more land has been reported occupied, mostly by former contras, in Chontales, Boaco, Chinandega, and Matagalpa Departments. The situation is tense. The government wants to adhere to U.S. Government and IMF instructions to reciprocate for the aid designated for Nicaragua, while the country's crisis is worsening as a result of the tension and demands to prevent further unemployment and cost-of-living increases.

Ortega Discusses FSLN Position

PA2109013690 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Interview with former President Daniel Ortega by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded; from the "Extravision" newscast]

[Text] [Reporter] Over the past few months, the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] has been pressuring the government into a national dialogue in one way or another. Yesterday the FSLN National Directorate criticized the date, however, that was set by the government last week. Is the FSLN really interested in a national dialogue?

[Ortega] We have been calling for a national dialogue since before 25 February. We have always spoken in favor of a national dialogue. The problem with the date is that the government did not consult with anyone to set the date, besides, conditions have not been created for setting a date. The government is trying to manipulate the 20 September meeting to legitimize what it has done within the framework of its economic policy. That policy has been like a grinding machine, which has been tearing the people into pieces. It has made the rich richer and the poor poorer. We cannot legitimize this. Our position, therefore, is that negotiations must take place, but the proper conditions must first be created. We believe that 30 days is enough time for the government to demonstrate that it is truly interested in a national dialogue by adopting measures that can give the Nicaraguan people some breathing room.

[Reporter] Today the government, through some of its ministers, stated its position, that it was not tying up the

national dialogue. They said that the national dialogue would not last just two days, but could go on for several weeks or more. What...

[Ortega, interrupting] What is the sense of holding these talks under these conditions—and that is where the big trap lies. If the talks are indefinite, they could go on for years and would never end. Meanwhile, there are more unemployed people, there are more people thrown out into the streets, and more unemployed families. There are more unemployed soldiers, officers, workers, and policemen. They would all be thrown out into the streets. Meanwhile, there are more children dying of hunger and disease. Infant mortality has increased. Meanwhile, the workers and the peasants are being threatened by the government's economic policies and are suffering from the government's economic policies. Also, the poor are getting poorer and hungrier and the rich are getting richer. We cannot be accomplices to that policy. What we must do now is create the minimum conditions. To do so, dates must be set, but the government cannot impose dates and impose a national dialogue for the benefit of the rich and to the detriment of the poor.

[Reporter] Has the FSLN National Directorate's decision not to participate in the national dialogue on this date been influenced by the government campaign through the [word indistinct], which has virtually accused the main Sandinist leaders of a series of abuses, etc.

[Ortega] The campaign being promoted by the government is intended to try to strip the Sandinists of their authority. They knew that we would not accept a negotiation or dialogue proposal under these circumstances. They knew that they had to create better conditions. They are trying to discredit the Sandinist reaction.

Logically, the people, who are suffering, who knew perfectly well that the Sandinist government was a government for the poor—it was a government for all Nicaraguans, but it especially favored the poor—realize that this is a government for the rich. We, Sandinists, made pinatas for the poor and I feel proud for having made pinatas for the poor. This government, however, is making pinatas for the rich. As you know, when the rich have their pinatas, they never invite the poor. The poor invite the rich, however, to share their pinatas. That was the case with the Sandinist government. The Sandinist government was a government for the poor, yet it invited the rich to participate. This government of the rich, however, does not invite the poor. It throws the poor to the wayside. The pinata is only for the rich. The previous pinata, however, was for the poor.

[Reporter] One last question, commander. Does the FSLN decision mean that organizations that support the Sandinists, such as the National Workers Front [FNT], peasant organizations, and small businessmen, will not participate in this meeting either?

[Ortega] Each organization is free to make its own decision. The FSLN has adopted a clear position. It will not legitimize the economic actions that are being taken against the Nicaraguan people. It will not legitimize the decision to turn the Nicaraguan economy over to the IMF, the next step. They want to hold lots of meetings on 20 September, because they want to tell the IMF: We already have the workers tied up. We have tied their legs and arms and we have gagged them and now we are going to drag them along. The IMF would then come here with its economic program, which will not benefit the Nicaraguan people, defend the national interests, or defend the people's interests. It will be a program that will benefit imperialist policies, it will benefit the rich, and it will make the poor poorer. Logically, the Sandinists will not give its support to such maneuvers. We agree with a national dialogue, but only if the national interests and the people's interests are protected. The government has the floor now.

FNT Announces 'Active Resistance'

PA2009171890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1534 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Managua, 20 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Five Sandinist labor unions representing about 200,000 workers announced today that they will start a "generalized active resistance" to protest the national dialogue convoked by Violeta de Chamorro's government.

The five unions make up the "National Workers Front" (FNT), the Sandinist labor group that in May and July conducted two national strikes which almost paralyzed Nicaragua.

Leaders of the FNT, with workers from the ministries, public schools, hospitals, state factories, and peasants throughout the country, have labeled the dialogue sought by President Chamorro as a "propaganda show."

The Sandinist workers will not heed the convocation to the debates. The workers said that their "active resistance" will start with public demonstrations "to reject" the firing of more than 30,000 government employees since April.

The Sandinist workers claim that the government wants to reach a consensus with the workers, businessmen and producers to fire 35,000 government employees and privatize enterprises that have been in the government's hands for the past 10 years.

Presidential Minister Antonio Lacayo said over national television last night that the government's main interest is to reach an agreement to "eliminate" hyperinflation, estimated unofficially at 3,200 percent.

Lacayo, the "strongman in the cabinet," deplored the FNT's announcement that it will not participate in the dialogue. He warned, however, that measures to improve the nation's bankrupt economy will be undertaken, "with or without the Sandinists' participation."

Ortega Discusses 'Explosive' Country Situation

PM2009133190 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 15 Sep 90 p 13

[Report on interview with Daniel Ortega, leader of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, by Anders Bolling in Stockholm; date not given: "Disappointed Ortega: 'Explosive Situation in Nicaragua'"]

[Text] "Unless the government becomes more flexible in its economic policy Nicaragua will soon be finished. The situation is more explosive now than it was before the major strike in July."

These worried words come from former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. Five months after handing over power to Violeta Chamorro he has grown into the role of leader of the Nicaraguan opposition in earnest.

This weekend Ortega is a guest at the Social Democratic Congress. He will presumably take the opportunity to study how an established party functions. Since its February election defeat his own party, the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], has had to adapt itself to a more "normal" party political situation. The Sandinists will hold their first party congress in February next year.

Ortega seems to have recovered from losing power; he now uses the rhetoric of the opposition leader with ease. He attributes the large-scale strikes organized in May and July by the Sandinist trade unions entirely to the policies of Violeta Chamorro and her government.

"It was the government itself which created the conditions for the workers' reaction through its economic measures. It began with the return of land from the farmers to its former owners, and matters were made worse by the government's monetary policy, orchestrated by the IMF and the United States.

"The government reached certain agreements with the workers to bring the strike to an end. The problem is just that the government is not now adhering to them. It is continuing with measures which are throwing the people into mass unemployment. It is cutting the budget for health care and education. Neither industry nor agriculture has any money to invest. And Nicaragua is on its way to becoming the most expensive country in Latin America."

During the election campaign one of the slogans of the opposition, the UNO [National Opposition Union] coalition, was: "They did not manage it in ten years, but UNO will manage it." But there is still no sign of any improvement in the catastrophic Nicaraguan economy. Since coming to power in April the Chamorro government has carried out almost 30 currency devaluations. But the rest of the world's willingness to help is now greater—something that inspires hope.

Daniel Ortega feels bitter that the foreign support he did not have is coming now.

"Yes, now the U.S. trade embargo, with which we lived for ten years, has been lifted. For this reason there ought to be scope for the government to pursue just economic policies. But it is not doing so.

"The United States is still attaching conditions to its support that are too tough. If the Americans really want Nicaragua to emerge from the crisis, they must remove the straitjacket confining us and become more flexible. The solutions to our problems have to be Nicaraguan"

But perhaps it is necessary to reconstruct the whole of the economy to have something to distribute in the future?

"Yes, but in that reconstruction the sacrifices and the gains must also be distributed equally; it should not be only those who are most vulnerable who should suffer for it."

There had been concern that the Sandinists would not really hand over power after the election defeat. For example, the FSLN still has control over the military through Army Commander Humberto Ortega.

"The Army is dominated by Sandinists because it grew out of the struggle against the dictator, Somoza, and grew up to defend the people. This very fact is a guarantee that there can never be a threat to the people or the popularly elected government," Daniel Ortega countered.

After the February election, Ortega declared that the Sandinists would continue to rule, not directly, but "from below."

"Ruling 'from below,'" Ortega said, "means that it is our duty to support the people and give the people stimuli in their struggle for their interests. For, regardless of which government the people vote for, they must never lose the ability to criticize, to check that this government is fully carrying out its task of governing the country well.

"And if the government does not behave well, the people have a right to protest—within the law, of course. The violence during the July strike is merely an expression of the fact that we still have some way to go in the democratic process. Constant dialogue between ruler and ruled. That is ruling 'from below.'"

The UNO coalition government is a very loose political grouping. Of its 47 seats in parliament only 25 are fully behind President Chamorro. The Sandinists have 39 seats. The coalition could very well split, but Ortega was unwilling to speculate about the possibility of ruling with some part of the coalition.

The next time Nicaragua goes to the polls will be in 1996. Will Daniel Ortega be on the list of candidates then?

"I do not know," he said, rubbing his tired eyes. "Not if today's gigantic problems are still around."

Government Said To Renegotiate Debt With Mexico

PA2009222790 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0023 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Within the next few weeks, Nicaragua's debt to Mexico for oil, machinery, and other capital goods sold to

the previous administration will be renegotiated, according to Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo. He pointed out that the debt amounts to $1 billion, 10 percent of Nicaragua's entire foreign debt. He also indicated that negotiations will be held with the Mexican Government for oil to be supplied within the framework of the San Jose Pact, which was created by Mexico and Venezuela to supply fuel to the Central American and Caribbean countries under favorable payment conditions.

Panama

Endara Announces Loan Program for Private Sector

PA2009220790 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] President Guillermo Endara Galimany announced this morning that the government will implement a loan program to reactivate the private sector. Endara added that the government has designated 72 million balboas toward this end.

[Begin Endara recording] A large part of the donation that we will receive, as established by the agreement with the United States, includes 108 million balboas for the Panamanian banking system, which will be channeled through the National Bank. Of this 108 million balboas, the National Bank has already received 36 million balboas, which together with the outstanding amount that we will receive later.... [changes thought] The 36 million balboas that is already here will be channeled through domestic and foreign banks, so that they in turn can loan the money. The banks will match each balboa provided by the aforementioned donation fund and thus double the size of the fund from 36 million balboas to 72 million balboas.

Panamanian entrepreneurs, as well as large, medium-sized, small, and mini-enterprises have 72 million balboas at their disposal in the banking system today. This clear and definitive offer exists. Of course, projects should be serious, because the banks will not grant loans without due guarantees and financial institutions will not grant loans on the orders of any government official, much less the president of the Republic. Regardless of their size, Panamanian entrepreneurs must present viable and well-structured projects that will respond to a practical economic reality. If they do, the aforementioned funds will be at their disposal. This offer is available to Panamanian entrepreneurs, particularly large, medium-sized, small, and mini-enterprises. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Communique on Gaitan Exodus

PA2009122190 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 18 Sep 90 p 14

[Communique issued by the Foreign Relations Ministry in Panama City on 17 September]

[Text] The Foreign Relations Ministry reports:

1. That at approximately 0900 on 16 September, His Most Reverend Excellency Jose Sebastian Laboa, the apostolic nuncio accredited to the national government, reported to Foreign Minister Dr. Julio E. Linares that Asuncion Eliecer Gaitan, former captain of the defunct Panama Defense Forces [FDP], was no longer at the Apostolic Nunciature.

2. That Foreign Minister Dr. Julio E. Linares immediately informed His Excellency President Guillermo Endara Galimany and Government and Justice Minister Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon about the situation of former Capt. Asuncion Eliecer Gaitan.

3. That the Apostolic Nunciature has forwarded note No. 3080 dated 16 September 1990 to this ministry. The note reads as follows:

"I have the duty to inform your excellency in writing what I have already told you over the telephone this morning: Former Capt. Asuncion Eliecer Gaitan R., who came to this Apostolic Nunciature on 23 December to request diplomatic asylum, has left the headquarters of this pontifical representation.

"Apparently, Mr. Gaitan had told nuns in the nunciature some days ago that he was not feeling well and preferred to stay in his room. On 14 September in the afternoon he told them that he would stay in bed the next day. Everything appeared to be normal to the nuns on the morning of 15 September because Gaitain's wife visited the nunciature and told the nuns that her husband had a lot of food in his room.

"At noontime today the nuns told me that the former captain was not feeling well and had not replied when they knocked on his door, which was locked. Accompanied by the nunciature secretary, we opened the door and found nobody in the bedroom or the bathroom. Inside the room we found all his personal belongings and a letter addressed to the nuncio, thanking the nuns and the holy father for their hospitality in the past nine months. Gaitan stated in his letter that he had decided to abandon the nunciature because he saw no other solution to his problem.

"I immediately reported to Your Excellency all that had transpired to get your opinion on any possible statement to be made in this regard. However, I have so far maintained absolute silence. I spoke to Mr. Gaitan last at 1800 on 14 September and thought he was behaving in his usual manner. I did not [notice] anything unusual whatsoever.

"This nunciature and the undersigned have always made efforts to ensure that this delicate problem would not even slightly harm the great relations between us. Besides, I have paid great care and attention, in this case, to ensure full compliance with the Foreign Relation Ministry's wishes as well with what security services demanded or simply wanted from our diplomatic mission.

"Mr. Minister, I take advantage of this opportunity to express my highest esteem and consideration for Your Excellency.

Devoutly yours,
Jose Sebastian Laboa
Titular archbishop of Zarai
Apostolic nuncio"

4. That Asuncion Eliecer Gaitan, former captain of the defunct FDP, left a letter addressed to His Most Reverend Excellency Jose Sebastian Laboa, the apostolic nuncio, stating that he had voluntarily given up the protection afforded him by that diplomatic mission without specifying where he was headed for.

5. That the Foreign Relations Ministry will forward a copy of the said documents to the Government and Justice Ministry and the Attorney General's Office for the purposes they deem appropriate.

6. That former Capt. Asuncion Eliecer Gaitan is no longer under diplomatic protection ever since leaving the Apostolic Nuncio. Thus, his status is that of a fugitive of national justice.

Panama City, 17 September 1990.

Invasion Aftermath, Homeless Situation Protested

PA2109020290 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2330 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Passages in italics are recorded]

[Text] Various groups, which oppose the current administration, today protested to mark another month since the U.S. invasion of Panama. The groups met at Porras Plaza from where they marched to demand justice for those who fell during the invasion. Among those protesting were the Aseupa [Association of University of Panama Employees] and the association of widows and relatives of those who were killed on 20 December 1989.

The unemployed also joined the march. Many of them belonged to the previous regime and are today demanding that they be reinstated in their respective jobs. Meanwhile, President Guillermo Endara is at this moment meeting with a delegation of El Chorrillo homeless, who this morning went to the Presidency to demand better living conditions. This morning the people of El Chorrillo broke past the presidential guards to get close to the Presidency and negotiate with the president a solution to their housing problems. The people feel that they have not achieved anything.

[First unidentified representative of El Chorrillo homeless] *Nothing good has been built for our people. All that has been built are pig sties and such that offer nothing good for our people. These structures provide subhuman conditions. First, some people do not have the resources to move from the city to those areas. Our people were living in the city. If the country hicks—with all due respect for our fellow countrymen—are getting out of the jungle areas, why the heck should our people have to move to the jungle after they have lived in the city all of their lives. How could our people survive in those areas?*

[Reporter] *Who is behind you? Who is supporting you? It is said that some political groups are supporting you. Is this true?*

[First unidentified representative of El Chorrillo homeless] *You can see for yourself. Do you see any political groups here? You are looking at El Chorrillo people here.*

After more than three hours, during which time El Chorrillo representatives shouted slogans about achieving their goals, the president of the Republic went out to speak to them.

[Endara] *I want to tell you that I also get desperate when I do not see things being done. I also would like to see good things done quickly. [applause] I want to tell you that bids are being taken for construction work in El Chorrillo, and some bids have been accepted. I am thinking of you constantly, because from the very beginning I told you that you are the top priority for this government, and you remain so. I am just as desperate as you are.*

After Endara spoke, a spokesman for the homeless spoke:

[Second unidentified representative of the homeless] *After nine months of invasion, El Chorrillo has been completely forgotten. We are fed up with hearing lies. [applause] We feel like a pregnant woman, carrying a womb full of lies. We are here to see if we can reach a full agreement.*

We want the following: We hear about 100,000 bids being granted. Mr. President, if you go by El Chorrillo, however, you will observe that not a single stone has been moved.

The situation at the entrance to the presidential palace was very tense today. Late this afternoon, there were still no results from the meeting between the commission representing the homeless and the president. They are discussing about 12 points, ranging from resolving their housing situation to providing employment in state enterprises.

Soviet Commission Visits Colon Free Zone

PA2109012490 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 20 Sep 90 p 22

[Report by G. De La Rosa—all Soviet names as published]

[Text] Colon—To obtain firsthand information about the operations and advantages offered by the Colon Free Zone, a Soviet commission visited the general management of the Free Zone last week, meeting with Deputy Manager Gerardo Harris, Secretary General Alvaro Varela, and Promotion Department Chief Eduardo Pinel.

The Soviet commission was formed by Nicolay Ivanovich, director general of the VTI-[expansion unknown] Kamaza factory; Leonid Vladiminuvich, vice president; Vaugath Zaquevich, mayor of Naberczhnye, and his assistant, Yarol Zimionovich. They were accompanied by Ravil Kashopov, the Kamaza factory representative in Panama.

The Soviet businessmen were provided with information about the Colon Free Zone and were later accompanied on a tour of the area and France Field.

Argentina

Menem on Benefits of Sending Troops to Gulf

PY2009211190 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2020 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 20 Sep (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has warned that the decision to send troops to the Persian Gulf "is the exclusive responsibility of the executive branch." He added that although the legislators' opinion is "respected, there are some who exaggerate, and I cannot wallow in the mud with them."

[Words indistinct] he answered that he does not respond "to this type of question." Asked about the critical attitude adopted by some Justicialist Party senators, Menem said: "I am very sorry."

Menem denied that the sending of a military contingent to the Persian Gulf is a gesture to the United States. He said that his decision seeks "to support the U.N. resolution." Menem said this in a statement to the press he made today after a teleconference with journalists in the United States.

He added: "This will allow us to join the new world order that is being created and will enhance our guarantees." He also noted the possibility of obtaining more "economic and social" benefits.

Menem said that the Argentine Government initiative "places Argentina in a leading position in Latin America. I am not saying this; the international press is saying this."

Although he confirmed that "the UN Security Council has not requested sending troops," he said that in its statutes, the UN charter [words indistinct] "it is as if they requested it."

Menem stressed that sending troops "will be financed by international organizations and by Kuwait." He added that if the Argentine forces leave from Puerto Belgrano, he will not be present at the departure ceremony. [passage omitted]

Cavallo Discusses UN Charter, Taking Stand

PY2009180690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1212 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Cordoba, 20 Sep (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has stated that "no one has the right to remain neutral" on the Persian Gulf crisis because "if one does not condemn or does not take action to force the Iraqi president to change his attitude, then one is in fact taking his side."

Speaking over LV2 Radio General Paz of Cordoba, Cavallo said: "The traditional concept of neutrality can no longer exist in a world governed by the principles of the UN Charter."

Cavallo added: "Argentina cannot remain neutral about a conflict provoked by a country that has flagrantly violated international law and the sovereignty of another nation."

"In this case," Cavallo said, "one cannot remain neutral. One has to take the side of the United Nations; that is, of those nations that are trying to avoid the violation of international rules."

Cavallo added: "The concept of neutrality that is now being mentioned made sense before the creation of the United Nations. Today, no one can remain neutral."

Cavallo noted that during World War II General Juan Domingo Peron decided to remain neutral. He said: "At that time there was no UN Charter, but Gen. Peron ultimately declared war on the Axis."

Foreign Ministry Defends Role

PY2009234290 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2234 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Sep (DYN)—The Foreign Ministry today justified sending Argentine troops to the Persian Gulf through a communique which enumerates the many times that Argentina has participated in peace forces at the request of the United Nations.

Argentina periodically sends military observers to the Middle East, Angola, and the border between Iran and Iraq, while the Navy Staff decided last June to send four patrol boats to safeguard the Gulf of Fonseca in Central America. The patrol boats, which carry 28-member Argentine crews, were sent to the Salvadoran coast following last November's request by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

As for the military observers in the Middle East, the communique states that since 1967 Argentina has sent four military officers every two years to observe the Suez Canal situation. Since 1988 Argentina has been sending a 10-member group of military observers to the border between Iran and Iraq every six months. Argentina also sends seven military observers to Angola every six months to oversee the withdrawal of Cuban forces from that country, all by petition of the United Nations.

After the list enumerating Argentina's military role in peace forces, the communique states that "the permanence of Argentine military groups is an unconditioned commitment without time limits, given that the United Nations understands that the several national representatives will serve as members of these forces as long as they exist."

In the past Argentina has also sent troops and military observers to the Congo, Lebanon, El Salvador, and Cuba.

Argentina sent two destroyers and three airplanes to the Caribbean region in 1962 during the Cuban crisis. This decision was made at the request of the OAS, which

recommended that its members adopt all necessary individual and collective measures, including the use of their Armed Forces.

Between July 1960 and February 1963, Argentina sent Air Force personnel to the Congo. In 1968 a group of observers were sent to Lebanon, and in 1970 groups of 28 officers made several trips to El Salvador.

The Foreign Ministry communique concludes by stating that "the participation of Argentine observers in peace forces is based on Argentina's commitment to negotiation processes seeking peace and to supporting the United Nations. [quotation marks as received]

Argentina, however, has not always responded to UN petitions. On 7 July 1950 the administration headed by Juan Domingo Peron refused to send troops to Korea during the North Korean invasion of South Korea. On that occasion the United Nations requested that its members send military forces to the region to help the United States.

Official Press To Be on Ships Bound for Gulf

PY2009145690 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1108 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Sep (DYN)—Government House has ruled that only reporters from the official radio and television services and from the state-owned news agency will be aboard the Argentine ships that will go to the Persian Gulf.

This measure was conveyed to the military commanders who, consequently, were forced to cancel the places reserved for their correspondents from the independent press.

Therefore, all the information concerning the conflict area will be channeled through the official news agency TELAM, the official television channel, and the services of the General Press Directorate of the Presidency of the Nation.

Spokesman Denies Press Restriction

PY2009192590 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Report by Silvina Martinez Porta from Government House]

[Text] A report was published yesterday which said that only journalists from the official media would be aboard the Argentine ships that will leave for the Persian Gulf on Tuesday [25 September] and that all information would be channeled through TELAM, ATC [Argentina Televisora Color, an official television channel], and the General Press Directorate of the Presidency of the Nation.

This morning we asked presidential spokesman Humberto Toledo about this issue. He stressed that the national government was never asked about the possibility of sending representatives from private media aboard the Argentine ships that will participate in the blockade on Iraq. Toledo said that reports on a possible official ban on sending private media representatives is nonsense. He said that it is not only incorrect, it is also ill-advised.

Toledo also explained that he personally negotiated with Navy representatives the presence of official media representatives aboard these ships, that this falls within his jurisdiction, and that at no time was he contacted by the private media companies that are absolutely free to conduct their own negotiations.

The presidential spokesman added that the government does not want to interfere with private media operations because it respects the freedom of enterprises and the freedom of the press.

Toledo finally added that neither the president nor the government have made any decision like that insinuated by the media.

Party Factionalism Termed 'Critical' for Menem

PY2009202790 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Sep 90 pp 1, 4

[Report by Daniel Lupa]

[Excerpts] The replacement of Presidential Secretary General Alberto Kohan by Eduardo Bauza, public health and social action minister, (or Bauza by Kohan, because the order of precedence is not yet clear), within the context of an attempt to reach a general agreement in the relations between Menem and the Peronist bloc in Congress, has remarkably increased the decisionmaking power of the Eduardo Menem-Bauza-Manzano-Dromi axis, and it has improved its position in the power structure. This sector has been called the "blue" faction.

The reports that Mendoza Deputy Jose Luis Manzano, president of the Peronist bloc in the House, might replace Julio Mera Figueroa as interior minister, could be the major accomplishment of the axis thus far. Mera Figueroa is a representative of the "dark red" wing, whose position is far from that of Manzano—if we can really give any credit to any such dark red faction, which is "almost" nothing but a faction that intends to outline a new course and that could confront with the blue faction.

Obviously, this does not imply that such a designation will actually be made. A rumor like this, however, would have been practically unthinkable two weeks ago, when one could almost immediately conclude that the controversial president of the Peronist bloc would be pushed aside.

The fact that the rumor was circulated on the same day as the Kohan-Bauza switch proves that links between the situations have developed and evinces the sustained progress of the "blue faction." The supposition that

Bauza made a mistake and was thus transferred to the general secretariat of the presidency, thus reducing his influence, operational capacity, and power is a weak and simplistic hypothesis.

To understand the major assignment given to Eduardo Bauza, one should recall that when Raul Alfonsin was annoyed (or distressed?) by some dangerous remarks by presidential press secretary German Lopez, Alfonsin "promoted" him to the post of defense minister, thus putting him out of the game and out of power. [passage omitted]

Actually, the possible increase of power of the blue faction seems to have begun with the crisis that broke out in the Peronist party on 5 August after the "Cafiero-Alfonsin" defeat in the constitutional amendment plebiscite.

The crisis prompted the replacement of Antonio Cafiero by Senator Eduardo Menem in the presidency of the party national council. From a technical viewpoint, this step seems to have been only a nominal change, as was shown by the first steps of the new council president. Eduardo Menem met twice— he was the only one to have done it twice—with former president Raul Alfonsin.

Except for the designation of Eduardo Menem, nothing has changed in the leadership structure. The party will follow the same policy, but with the usual confusion that stems from the idea that things have changed because of the presence of a close relative of President Carlos Menem.

The fact that the power balance remains unchanged is proven by the fact that Cafiero did not have to resign his post at the party provincial council and that, on the contrary, Luis Macaya, Buenos Aires Province deputy governor—an openly pro-Menem leader—had to resign. Macaya emerged as winner with the no-vote victory in the plebiscite.

This internal party situation may have gone far enough to once again paralyze any party support for the president. Antonio Cafiero has continued to perform as the spokesman for the leading Peronist faction, as was shown by his last meeting with Menem at government house some 10 days ago. [passage omitted]

The so-called "blue" faction has become one of the main obstacles to the implementation of the transformation projects sponsored by the Menem-led sector with the support of Bauza. According to La Rioja leader Eduardo Menem, the blue faction is the "main sector that has most painfully opposed" Economy Minister Antonio Gonzalez, not to mention the well-known situation caused by Public Works Minister Roberto Dromi. The blue faction, however, has also become a key for Menem to obtain congressional support for his amendments. The degree to which Menem depends on this faction is surely one of the most critical unresolved conflicts of his administration.

Consequently, Menem seems to be forced to play with two factors.

He needs the "blue" faction especially for obtaining congressional support, which is vital to his administration. But he may be unable to make any further progress while he prepares for the internal party elections, which will elect party leaders and candidates next year.

The situation is critical because the fact that Menem will concentrate on next year's internal party elections means that he expects that his horizons will not change before the elections. Confidence in the party structure, however, has become increasingly weaker, as is shown by the strong trend to support extra-party candidates. This trend has been reported by the president himself. [passage omitted]

Syrian Party Figure Conveys al-Asad Message

JN2009170790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1620 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Sep (SANA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem has expressed his great appreciation for President Hafiz al-Asad and his great admiration of His Excellency's character. President Menem had met with President al-Asad during his visit to Syria, which is the homeland of President Menem and his forefathers.

This came during Carlos Menem's meeting with Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the accompanying delegation, which is taking part in the ninth conference of the Federation of Arab-American Institutions and Clubs, FEAARAB.

During the meeting, which was held the day before yesterday, President Menem and Comrade al-Ahmar exchanged words of welcome in a friendly atmosphere that symbolizes the traditional friendship between Syria and Argentina, and between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Peronist Justice Party.

Comrade al-Ahmar conveyed to President Menem the warm and friendly greetings of President al-Asad and an oral message dealing with developments in the Arab region following the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

For his part, President Menem expressed his warm greetings to President Hafiz al-Asad and his deep thanks for the oral message.

Following the meeting, Comrade al-Ahmar held a news conference in which he talked about the relations between the two friendly countries, Syria and Argentina. He also answered questions from the press on the latest developments and his position on these developments.

Leaders Reveal Cuban Opposition Document

PY2009182590 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Sep 90 p 1, 7

[Article: "Christian Democrats, Liberals, Social Democrats, and Conservatives against Castro" by columnist Daniel Lupa — quotation marks as published]

[Text] Twelve leaders of as many democratic Cuban political factions, among them Christian Democrats,

Liberals, Social Democrats, and Conservatives, signed an agreement in Madrid last month entitled: "The Declaration and Pact of Madrid." This document contains a "democratic Cuban platform" that for the first time since 1959 unites the main groups that oppose the "jackal of the Caribbean," as Fidel Castro, the head of the Cuban communist tyranny, is informally called.

This was revealed by Roberto Fontanilla Roig, an exiled Cuban professor and political analyst who resides in Venezuela, during his address to the seminar which was called "Cuba in the Inter-American System: the Realities and the Prospects." The seminar was organized by the Conflict Studies Institute of the Argentine Social Museum University [Instituto de Estudios del Conflicto en la Universidad del Museo Social Argentino].

The document contains some 1,350 words and is signed by Fontanilla and the political leaders—some of whom were political prisoners while others suffered internal banishment [ex plantados] and are now exiles. They are Ricardo Bofill Pages, Carlos Alberto Montaner, Jorge Ignacio Rasco, Miguel Gonzalez Pando, Juan Suarez-Rivas, Marcelino Miyares, Fernando Bernal, Emilio Martinez Venegas, Rene Diaz, Felecito Rodriguez, and Uva Clavijno.

Until recently the document was presumably kept under strict secrecy, with the exception of some references in Venezuelan newspapers toward the end of August, and it has presumably already generated a strong and silent movement of support among intellectuals (including Mario Vargas Llosa and Octavio Paz) in several countries within the continent.

The authenticity of the document was confirmed in Buenos Aires by Maria Teresa Reviriego, president of the Argentine Committee for Human Rights in Cuba, who also provided details of an escalation of pressure against people of the Cuban opposition due to the ever-increasing resistance to the only communist regime and tyranny in the continent. She also indicated a worsening of the torture of Tania Diaz Castro, a human rights leader, and her daughter, Mari Carmen Diaz Rivas.

Cuba: An Anachronistic Exception

The preface of the Declaration and Pact of Madrid states that "the communist dictatorship came to power in Cuba more than three decades ago as a consequence of the cold war and the East-West confrontation. These causes have lost their meaning in these days of real cooperation between the superpowers and the emergence of democratic nations in the defunct socialist bloc.

"Freedom concurrently emerged in Latin America, the historical and geographical region to which Cuba inexorably belongs. Strong-arm regimes and military tyrannies have been substituted in this continent by democratic governments that have been chosen at the ballot box.

"Cuba is the anachronistic exception to this unstoppable current tendency. To be more specific: Cuban society is close to a catastrophe because of this exception. Castro's government refuses to accept the unavoidable end of a communist dictatorship consisting of a one-party system that is based on a Marxist-Leninist ideology that is irremediably condemned to disappear. From the podium, the dictator insistently repeats the slogan 'Marxism-Leninism or Death' knowing that Marxist-Leninist socialism is no longer viable and that the only option for the Cuban people is death."

To Prevent a Fratricidal Struggle

The document assimilates the demand of "the peoples of East Europe" and of the "people of Nicaragua," all of whom desire "an end to communist totalitarianism in the island."

"But," it warns, "we do not want this inexorable event to occur in the middle of a fratricidal struggle in which thousands of innocent and defenseless people will surely die," but that "democracy, freedom, and the full exercise of national sovereignty must emerge from Castro's downfall. We do not want strongmen or triumphant caudillos of an opposite political ideology to again take over our fatherland. We want this tragic episode of our civic life—more than three decades of communist totalitarianism preceded by seven years of another type of dictatorship—to be the last failure to affect our troubled Republic.

The document rejects violent actions because "history and our own experience have taught us that violence rarely engenders freedom, democracy, or justice."

"Who we are"

The document identifies those who signed the agreement, which is based "on what we believe to be self-evident truths," and it states: "We, Christian Democratic, Liberal, Social Democratic, and Conservative Cubans, internationally linked to the four great ideological families who represent 90 percent of political organizations upon which the nations of the free and democratic world are based, have decided to prevent by all legal methods our country from becoming a scenario for violence once again.

"Once and for all we promise," they add as members of 'those four great trends of Western thought,' "to eliminate from our political disagreements political violence and all other types of struggle other than those that are strictly based on democratic rules." They warn: "Outside any transitory regime that emerges from exceptional circumstances we will only accept as a definite government the one that is the product of the national, sovereign, and independent aspirations. The statement says that the method "for promoting a transition toward democracy" should be "a consultation with the Cuban people through referendum, plebiscites, general elections or any other method to be established by a national meeting."

The statement makes it clear that "this expression of sovereign will must include the participation of Cubans living at home and abroad. The voting must be free, direct, and secret, and it must be supervised by national and international observers."

The final part of the section that describes the agreement states: "We demand that the current Cuban Government immediately submits itself to the verdict of the ballot boxes. We will also demand this from any government that succeeds the current government through a nondemocratic procedure. We will reject with all our might any electoral farce aimed at illegally extending the dictatorship."

Platform and Preconditions

The document gives precise details of the "conditions" for the transition and for the legitimacy of the elections that they are demanding. The first condition is an "immediate general amnesty for all political crimes."

Among the "conditions," which make up sort of a "platform," the document notes that "the National People's Assembly should introduce the necessary changes in the current Cuban Constitution in order to eliminate those articles that prevent society from living a free and democratic life." The document states that the Constitution should "permit a multiparty system and the exercise of freedom of association, of assembly, and of movement within and beyond Cuban borders. The Constitution should also guarantee full freedom of expression" and free access to "all mass media."

The document demands that the Castroist tyranny "observes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" and "immediately end the harassment of the human rights groups on the island." Such groups "must be legalized and must enjoy full freedom of action." The document adds that "the organized churches that operate in the country should be given full legal protection," and that "the working class should be allowed to once again exercise their full union rights."

Havana, Washington, Moscow

The final point of the "platform" states that the transition from the tyranny "is an issue that must be debated by all Cubans," and that "the Cuban destiny must be decided in Cuba and by Cubans, and not in Washington or Moscow." The document proposes "a preparatory conference to perform a pre-analysis of the issues, and to set a date and a place." The conference can be held "in any country that extends its support and its help."

The document says that the "conference" "must be attended by: a) representatives of every group, party, and movement that promotes political and social changes in Cuba; b) a comprehensive delegation of exiles; c) a Cuban Government delegation; and d) international observers who will oversee the deliberations."

This type of proposal was also analyzed in the various East European countries when the Communist regimes began to fall. In countries like Romania, where the old regime was not terminated in an orderly manner, there were clearly violent consequences that had serious effects that have not yet been overcome—indeed, some of the leaders of the ousted tyranny remain in power.

New Soviet Ambassador on Gulf, Other Issues

PY2009201990 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 18 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] Shortly after he arrived in Argentina, Vladimir Nikitin, who will replace Oleg Kvasov as Soviet ambassador to our country, said: "There can be no doubt that the Argentine decision to send ships to the Persian Gulf is an intelligent and moderate one."

Nikitin said: "Argentina has adopted a logical attitude that is consistent with the UN and international resolutions." Although he described the current situation as extremely delicate, Nikitin did not rule out the possibility that a peaceful solution can be achieved by resorting to all political and diplomatic resources.

Concerning his ambassadorship in Argentina, Nikitin, who was acting USSR Foreign Affairs Ministry First Latin American Department deputy chief, said that he has been instructed "to enhance bilateral relations that are currently felicitous, constructive, and that represent a good keynote for our peoples."

Asked by CLARIN about trade relations with Argentina, Nikitin said: "Trade relations are almost normal between countries like ours that have slightly different economic systems and structures, but we have a lot to work out and a lot to review."

The Polish and GDR ambassadors were present at the Ezeiza International Airport VIP room to welcome the diplomat who answered with a smile a question about yesterday's massive rally in Moscow against Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov. Nikitin said: "Those are domestic affairs. I left the capital shortly before that march was held, but nobody should pay any attention to it. These are normal expressions in democratic countries, and democracy and pluralism prevail in the Soviet Union."

Health Minister Installs New Under Secretaries

PY2009183490 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] At noon today Alberto Kohan, brand new health and social action minister, installed those who will be his closest aides during his tenure as health and social action minister. They are Juan Viaggio, under secretary for health and social action policy; Jorge Gomez, under secretary for health services and programs administration; Social Action Under Secretary Hugo Martinez Viademonte; and Horacio Guardado, under secretary for health coordination and administration.

Six-Month Trade Surplus Up 66.5 Percent

PY2009221490 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Sep 90 p 3

[Text] (DYN)—Argentina's trade surplus shot up to 4.105 billion dollars during the first half of 1990, 66.5 percent higher than for the same period last year, the Trade and Industry Undersecretariat announced last night.

This increase, the Trade and Industry officials disclosed, was due to a 25.7 percent expansion in exports and an accompanying 20.1 decline in imports in comparison with 1989.

The total figure for exports between January and August this year was 5.865 billion dollars while imports amounted to 1.760 billion dollars.

A report detailing the latest trade figures stated that "exports grew fundamentally because of the exceptional harvests for grains and oil bearing seeds, which account for 55 percent of the increase."

The report estimated a total export figure for 1990 of between 11 billion and 11.5 billion dollars, with the trade surplus ascending to between 7 billion and 7.5 billion dollars.

Chile

Aylwin Expresses 'Concern' to Pinochet

PY2009175490 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Report by Nelson Oteiza from La Moneda Palace]

[Text] President Patricio Aylwin met today with General Augusto Pinochet, Army commander in chief, to express his concern over Pinochet's conduct, which has, Aylwin believes, gone beyond the bounds of the institutional framework of Pinochet's functions.

This is contained in a press release handed out by Enrique Correa, minister secretary general of government. The press release refers to the 45-minute meeting that Aylwin and Pinochet had today at noon in La Moneda Palace.

[Begin Correa recording] Today the president summoned General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, Army commander in chief, to express his concern regarding conduct, which has, the president believes, gone beyond the bounds of the institutional framework of Gen. Pinochet's functions.

The president referred specifically to conduct that enters the political sphere and the unfortunate remarks characterizing the Army of a country that is generally a traditional friend of Chile, thereby putting our international relations in jeopardy. [end recording]

The communique adds that the government, in the constant pursuit of national concord and Chile's progress, urges all state authorities and institutions to carry out the role that the Constitution has outlined for them without invading sectors that are not within their sphere of competence.

This is the communique that was handed out by Enrique Correa, minister secretary general of government, on the meeting between General Pinochet and President Aylwin at La Moneda Palace.

Anti-Aylwin Demonstration Occurs at Te Deum

PY2009181890 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Andres Allamand, president of National Renewal, condemned the counterdemonstration against President Patricio Aylwin during yesterday's military parade.

Allamand lamented that the parade and the Te Deum served as a pretext for party activities.

[Begin Allamand recording] I believe that everyone condemns, as I have already said, the actions that occurred during the Te Deum and the parade and that they served as a pretext for political demonstrations of any type.

We are living in a total democracy. The political parties have numerous opportunities to make their viewpoints known, whether favorable or unfavorable, about the government.

I believe that the citizens in general would have preferred that these two ceremonies not be tinged with political or party demonstrations. [end recording]

According to Allamand, the authorities have attached very much importance to the incidents, and he termed out of tune the remarks of Interior Minister Enrique Krauss about the demonstrators.

Allamand also condemned the incident in which Education Minister Ricardo Lagos was insulted by a Military School cadet.

[Begin Allamand recording] If it is true that a Military School cadet insulted the education minister, then I also condemn it. I believe that members of the Army, specifically the members of the Military School, should neither applaud nor insult government officials, or any other official, especially since they were participating in an official ceremony. This is obviously an isolated case, but it is an incident that no one can consider positive. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Economy Minister To Seek Investments in Europe

PY2009132090 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Economy Minister Carlos Ominami will travel to Spain, France, and Italy 2-13 October with the objective of meeting with businessmen and government authorities to explain the advantages of investing in our country.

The minister will travel with Fernando Ibanez, a member of the Foreign Investment Executive Committee; Eugenio Yunis, director of the National Tourism Service; and a group of Chilean businessmen.

Carabineros Arrest Four Alleged FPMR Members

PY2009191290 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Report by Rolando Garrido]

[Text] The Carabineros have arrested four alleged members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR], and in the next few minutes they will be placed at the disposal of the Second Military Court of Santiago to be tried for a series of extremist crimes.

They have been identified as Felix Madariaga Leiva, 21; (Paula Jenkins Solervizeus), 29; (Andres Ayel Salcedo), 23; and Marcos Mecina Conejero, 29.

According to the Carabineros, the woman was chief of the FPMR militia in the eastern sector of the capital. It has also been reported that she was the link, or courier, between the extremist group and the International Coordinating Board, headquartered in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Those arrested are thought to have participated in the following crimes, among others: an armed attack against the 39th Carabineros Police Precinct on 30 June 1988 during which Carabineros agent Marcos Pozo Reyes was seriously wounded; the February 1988 placing of a wreath containing an explosive device at the foot of the Manual Rodriguez monument in Bustamante Park; and the 27 July attack on (Elexmetal) [not further identified], where they stole four million pesos.

Those arrested will be placed at the disposal of the Second Military Court of Santiago.

Colombia

Extraditables Reportedly Holding Publisher's Son

PA2109015390 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0014 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The kidnapping of Francisco Santos, chief of the editorial staff of EL TIEMPO, was ordered by the Medellin Cartel and carried out in coordination with an ELN [Army of National Liberation] unit. This was stated by EL TIEMPO in a communique citing a spokesman of the drug traffickers. From the circumstances surrounding the kidnapping, it can be said that the kidnapping of Francisco Santos, son of [EL TIEMPO publisher] Hernando Santos, was carefully planned. [passage omitted]

According to the communique issued by EL TIEMPO tonight, the spokesman of the Medellin Cartel who got in touch with the newspaper said that Francisco Santos is well and is receiving the medical treatment he needs. Here is a report by Amparo Ponton on the communique:

[Begin Ponton recording] The communique issued by EL TIEMPO this afternoon states: 1. According to telephone calls to the newspaper by a member of the Medellin Cartel, who identified himself as Carlos Jimenez, aka Caliche, Francisco Santos, Diana Turbay, and Mariana Montoya are being held by The Extraditables.

2. According to the caller, Francisco Santos is being treated well and is receiving the medical treatment he requires.

3. The cartel, through that spokesman, rejects the government measures to reduce sentences. It states that none, absolutely none, of its members plans to surrender, and its organization has not been defeated or weakened.

4. The Extraditables ask for political treatment similar to the treatment the government has given the M-19 [19 April Movement] and the EPL [Popular Liberation Army].

5. The caller did not give deadlines for the release of the hostages, adding that he is waiting for orders from Pablo Escobar Gaviria via facsimile from Central America.

The EL TIEMPO communique also said that the state security services indicate that the cartel opened up sources of jobs in Bogota, Cali, and Medellin to carry out other actions against political and high-ranking government figures. The security services also state that a unit of the ELN is working for Pablo Escobar.

The newspaper also said that police spokesmen believe both Francisco Santos and Marina Montoya are being held somewhere in Bogota. [end recording]

A few minutes ago the government issued a new communique. There are two important points in the communique. First, the government states that it is aware of the calls made by someone to EL TIEMPO. Second, the government doubts the veracity of those calls.

Foreign Minister Speaks to Congressmen

PA2109032990 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Sep 90 p 6A

[Report by Hubert Ariza]

[Text] The Rio Group—formerly the Group of Eight—will be the basis of the Latin American forum proposed

by President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo for real spokesmen of the region before the great powers.

Mexico could become the biggest buyer of Colombian coal and could become a partner in the exploitation of the Colombian mineral. Venezuela will build a gas pipeline that will bring fuel to Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean through Colombia.

Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo made these statements on 12 September before the second commission of the House of Representatives, where he also reviewed the latest changes in international policy.

Jaramillo confirmed that a summit of the Group of Three—Cesar Gaviria of Colombia, Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico, and Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela—will be held in New York in the United States on 30 September .

The summit, which will take place within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly, is intended to strengthen the diplomatic, economic, and trade relations of the three countries and to facilitate analysis of their relations with Central America and the Caribbean.

Jaramillo said that Colombia is greatly interested in strengthening its relations with Mexico and Venezuela, so as to achieve a greater presence in the Caribbean.

Jaramillo pointed out that Mexico has become the biggest energy consumer on the continent and that Colombia will sell electricity to this country by means of an interconnection that will cross Central America.

As for its relations with Venezuela, he said "the future of Colombia is linked to integration with Venezuela. We cannot continue 'to joke about' Andean integration, which is a necessity; otherwise, the development of Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela will be limited."

As for the new diplomatic policy, he said that Colombia "must stop concentrating on the drug issue in its relations with the United States, because we cannot continue to talk to that country only in terms of drug trafficking."

He said that from now on, the drug trafficking problem will be discussed with the United States through the Andean antidrug initiative agreed upon by the presidents of Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru with George Bush in Cartagena on 15 February.

Jaramillo said that Colombia would continue to stress that drug trafficking is a problem of the international community that must be resolved by all countries.

Regarding this, he asked for greater cooperation from the developed countries to stop the laundering of dollars and the sale of chemicals associated with the manufacture of drugs.

He also said that these activities contribute to huge earnings for industrialized nations, and he said that he would continue to struggle to achieve international jurisdiction over crimes related to drug trafficking.

He said that the only compensation Colombia wants from industrialized countries for its struggle against the drug cartels is that they open up their markets to Colombian exports, lower their customs tariffs, and approve the offers made by the EEC.

"We do not want charity or alms from anyone," he said. "Colombia can deal with its drug trafficking problems with its own resources."

Speaking of President Bush's Initiative for the Americas, he said that he will ask the United States for special treatment for Cerrejon's [coal mining enterprise] foreign debt.

Jaramillo said the foreign debt would continue to be paid on time "because the best strategy for the country is to continue to meet its financial obligations on time."

Moreover, he said that Colombian embassies will become business promoters and "diplomats will become commercial agents who will have to accompany industrialists who travel abroad and who must exert influence on economic development and foreign trade ministries."

Responding to a question from Representative Emilio Lebolo on administrative hiring practices, he said that they would be reviewed and that "the foreign ministry will open up to the entire country so that all Colombians can have access to it."

Battle Reports Released for 8-18 September

PA2109024490

[Editorial Report] Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on page 14A on 8 September in an approximately 330-word report states that guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, ambushed and killed two policemen and wounded three more in San Jose del Guavirie, Meta Department. The guerrillas took four Galil rifles, ammunition, and other firearms.

The 11 September issue of EL TIEMPO on pages 1 and 7B publishes in a 450-word report that clashes were waged in Narino Department between 3d Infantry Brigade troops and guerrillas from FARC's 29th Front. This same front reportedly took over five townships in Narino Department on 19 August and killed three policemen. The report adds that on 10 September six guerrillas wearing Army uniforms were killed in Samaniego Municipality, to the southwest of Pasto, Narino Department. Anti-guerrilla units confiscated war materiel.

The same report states that the Popayan-based Jose Hilario Lopez Battalion troops thwarted a FARC dynamite attack against a police vehicle on the Pan-American Highway at El Estaquillo, El Bordo Muncipality, Cauca Department. Three guerrillas were killed in the ensuing shootout. The report adds that members of the Martha

Elena Baron column of the Army of National Liberation, ELN, who had been harassing the Santander Battalion, were captured at San Alberto, Cesar Department. One guerrilla was killed.

The report states further that the Reyes Infantry Battalion captured three FARC guerrillas in Cimitarra, Santander Department, and confiscated shotguns and cocaine. However, no date of the capture is mentioned. The same report adds that another armed attack took place between Bolivar Battalion troops and FARC 9th Front members at Otro Mundo, near Florian, Santander Department. Cocaine, a shotgun, and propaganda were confiscated. The report does not make mention of the date of the attack.

The 14 September issue of EL TIEMPO reports on pages 1-A and 8-A, in an approximately 400-word item, that the Army's Mobile Brigade dismantled two guerrilla camps at the Perija mountain range. The camps belonged to guerrillas who on 10 September took over La Jagua de Ibirico village and killed a woman and her child. More than 100 police uniforms, food supplies, field equipment, and arms were confiscated there. It is believed these camps belonged to FARC and ELN guerrillas. The same report says that Cundinamarca Department Police Commander Colonel Raul Suarez Gutierrez has confirmed that paramilitary members killed five peasants at Paime. Suarez believes the murders are attributable to remnants of criminals who were on the payroll of the late Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha and emerald dealer Gilberto Molina.

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 0057 GMT on 14 September, in an approximately 150-word report, states that FARC guerrillas attacked a village at Casanare Intendancy, killing two policemen, wounding four, and presumably kidnapping five others, who are missing. The report adds that the guerrillas attacked the police garrison.

The NOTIMEX report also states that FARC and ELN guerrillas sacked businesses and destroyed Colombian intelligence installations at Hato Corozal Municipality, Arauca Department. The rebels occupied the village for three hours and painted antigovernment slogans. NOTIMEX gives no date for the occupation of the village, but a similar Bogota Inravison Television Cadena 1 report at 0000 GMT on 14 September says that it took place on 13 September and that two policemen were killed in cold blood.

Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 14 September carries a one-minute item reporting that the 3d Infantry Brigade based in Cali announced the death of a Swiss nun who was killed when the Army raided a campsite of FARC's 29th Front in Narino Department, where the nun gave medical assistance to the guerrillas. The station goes on to report a light clash between the Army and a Quintin Lame guerrilla column in Santa Elena, Cauca Department. The report describes the clash, in which two young civilian girls were wounded, as a setback to the rapprochement between the government and guerrillas. The station next reports on the Girardot Battalion's search for an ELN guerrilla column in Caceres Muncipality, Antioquia Department, following a clash between the two in which one guerrilla was killed and three others were wounded.

Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 1800 GMT on 15 September carries a one-minute report on an ELN dynamite attack on the Cano-Limon-Covenas oil pipeline at km 74 in the village of (La Abadia), Arauca Intendancy. The report adds that crude oil pumping operations were suspended for four days.

At 0100 GMT on 16 September the same station broadcasts a one-minute report saying that ELN elements dynamited for the third time this month the Cano-Limon-Covenas oil pipeline in the village of Palambi in Arauca Intendancy. The reports states that pumping operations were suspended for 48 hours.

Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 17 September carries a three-minute item reporting that ELN guerrillas ambushed a routine police patrol, killing six policemen and injuring one, five km away from the town of Simiti, south of Bolivar Department on the border with Santander Department.

At 1200 GMT on 18 September the same station carries a three-minute item reporting that unidentified rebels killed Corporal Marco Tulio Serna in the Honda Municipality in Tolima Department. The report adds that rebels shot 26-year-old police officer Edison Castano on a road near the town of Armenia in Quindio Department. The report further states that unidentified gunmen murdered police officer Luis Angel Rosso at 53th Street and 47th Avenue in Bello Municipality near Medellin. The report says that the police launched a sweeping operation in Bello Municipality and killed Rosso's murderer, John Jairo Restrepo Escobar, an alleged gang member.

The report states further that a cell of the ELN attacked a bus on the road from Cimitarra Municipality to Barrancabermeja oil port, injuring nine passengers and kidnapping five soldiers of the Rafael Reyes 4th Army Brigade, whom they later took to the mountainous region.

Ecuador

Borja Requests Radar for Fight Against Drugs

PA2009234090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0240 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Guayaquil, 19 Sep (EFE)—It was reported here today that Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja has asked the United States for more aid in the struggle against drug traffickers in Ecuador to prevent the drug empire's tentacles from invading government spheres.

President Borja has told the Teleamazonas Network here that international drug traffickers are increasingly using Ecuadoran airspace, especially in the Amazon region. Therefore, he asked U.S. President Bush to provide Ecuador with an effective radar station to detect clandestine air traffic in the area.

Borja indicated that it is impossible to combat drug trafficking without proper technical equipment.

Borja added that if drug trafficking is allowed to expand, it could finance political campaigns and infiltrate political parties, thereby destabilizing the country.

Borja took issue with a recent article published in NEWSWEEK and reprinted by the local press which stated that $400 million in drug money had been laundered in Ecuador in 1989.

Over the past two weeks, 315 kg of cocaine was seized in two important operations carried out by the Ecuadoran police. In the first operation, authorities discovered 302 kg in a Colombian light plane that landed in the Amazon region. In the other, 13 kg was seized from an international drug ring headed by an 18-year-old Colombian.

Peru

Foreign Minister Marchand Previews UN Visit

PY2109024090 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Peruvian Foreign Minister Luis Marchand Stens has confirmed that he will attend the UN General Assembly on behalf of our country, leaving for Washington on 23 September. He talked about his trip and other issues.

[Begin recording] [Marchand] Prime Minister Juan Carlos Hurtado will also be in Washington at about that time to attend the governors meeting of the World Bank, the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank], and the IMF.

[Reporter] Will you also attend the meetings?

[Marchand] I will leave for the United Nations on 23 September to fulfill my task as foreign minister and to represent the president at this international meeting.

[Reporter] What is the Peruvian position?

[Marchand] The Peruvian position is very clear. As I just said, Peru supports the UN decisions. We are also going to propose the intensification of international cooperation with countries experiencing special emergency situations. Our position on this was clearly established after talking with the president.

[Reporter] What concrete proposals will you be taking?

[Marchand] One of our concrete proposals is to demand or request more intensive international cooperation for countries experiencing emergency situations. We are going to submit a draft resolution to be studied by the UN General Assembly Economic Commission. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Marchand Views Argentine Decision on Gulf

PY2109031690 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Luis Marchand has said in Lima that the sending of Argentine troops to the Persian Gulf is a country's sovereign decision and must be respected. He also mentioned the trip to the United States by Council of Ministers President Juan Carlos Hurtado.

[Begin Marchand recording] The sending of troops on the basis of UN resolutions is a sovereign decision that must be made by each country. In this case, Argentina made a sovereign decision. As far as I know, we have supported the UN resolutions, but we have not yet made that sort of decision. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Confusion Over Trafficker Noriega Clarified

PY2009220090 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 16 Sep 90 p 13

[Text] The police reported yesterday that 28-year-old Ricardo Noriega Egusquiza is not related to former Panamanian dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega Moreno, as had been reported by the media.

The police said that Ricardo Noriega is a Peruvian with a record of drug trafficking. He was arrested a few days ago near de El Angel cemetery with several individual "packets" of cocaine base.

The police first reported that Ricardo Noriega was the brother of the former Panamanian dictator, but this was later denied by the Illegal Drug Traffic Investigation Department of the Technical Police.

51 Students Obtain Soviet Scholarships

PY2009142690 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The Inabec [National Scholarships Institute] has summoned all Peruvian students who have been awarded a scholarship by the USSR. This information was disclosed by Inabec Communications Director General, Marco Huamani Villafuerte.

[Begin Huamani recording] The Inabec happily learned today that the Soviet Government has granted scholarships to 51 Peruvian students for postgraduate degrees and to study various professions at Soviet universities. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Venezuela

IMF, World Bank Plans Said 'Unsuitable'

PA2009132190 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Economy Minister Roberto Pocaterra has described the new IMF and World Bank plans for Venezuela as unsuitable and unacceptable. Pocaterra made these statements a few days before leaving for Washington where he will discuss those plans.

According to Minister Pocaterra, the new plans appeared at the last minute and are closely linked to the additional revenues that Venezuela will obtain because of the increase in oil prices, and to the way in which those resources will be allocated. Pocaterra said it is absolutely essential to inform the IMF and the World Bank that the additional revenues are the result of a very special situation that must be closely monitored because no one can guarantee that it will last.

[Begin Pocaterra recording] It is very important to point out that the structure of the budget is very rigid. In other words, the budget has very high recurrent expenses. We believe that the recurrent expenses are almost 85 percent of the entire budget. Therefore, it is extremely dangerous to draft a budget for 1992, which will be equal to the current one, based on revenues that are not permanent. I would like to know whether the World Bank can guarantee that there will not be a war. [end recording]

As for the attitude of multilateral organizations like the IMF and the World Bank toward the developing countries' economies, Economy Minister Pocaterra said that he prefers to wait until he returns from New York, when he will be fully informed about the way in which the $150 million that these organizations have granted Venezuela during the last few days will be invested.

Ambassador to Iraq Recalled, Dismissed

PA2109012390 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 12 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Venezuelan Ambassador to Iraq Rafael Monsalve Castillo has been recalled and dismissed on instructions from the Foreign Ministry. The Foreign Ministry is keeping a tight lid on the matter, to the point that in a telephone conversation with the General Director of EL NACIONAL, a ministry official said that he was not authorized to make any statements.

Guyana

Cabinet Suspends Government Travel Overseas

FL2009230490 Bridgetown CANA in English 2156 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept 20, CANA—Faced with a continuing shortage of foreign exchange and the need to slash government spending, the Guyana Government has clamped down on official visits overseas and attendance at external conferences.

Cabinet ordered the clampdown according to a circular from the secretary to the treasury to all permanent secretaries, heads of departments, and regional executive officers. The circular dated September 18, was signed by W. Jordon for the secretary to the treasury. The circular said that as a result of the Cabinet decision, "all overseas travel which require financing from the treasury has been suspended with immediate effect." "Officers in receipt of unconfirmed Cabinet decisions permitting travel abroad, but who have not done so as yet, are further informed that these decisions have been revoked," it added.

Attendance at conferences, seminars and meetings which do not require financing from the treasury, will still require cabinet approval.

Governor of the Central Bank Pat Matthews told CANA recently that the bank has not been releasing foreign exchange for overseas travel and government officials wishing to go abroad have had to buy their foreign exchange at the cambios.

With the exchange rate at the cambios now up to 88 Guyana U.S. dollars to one U.S. dollar, and with public officers being allocated a daily overseas allowance of about U.S.100 dollars, foreign travel has been proving to be very expensive for the government.

The decision to clamp down on overseas travel is being viewed here as an attempt by the government to control its spending to comply with the financial discipline demanded by its economic recovery programme which is linked to stringent conditions in an International Monetary Fund agreement.